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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2014

## The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

SEE PAGES 16 TO 18

## Maesteg man (38) is jailed after attacking his partner

A MAN who twice attacked his then partner, on each occasion injuring her wrists, has been jailed for a total of eight months at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Tedium Chickadaya (38) of Kings Terrace, Maesteg, had been convicted by Bridgend Magistrates of two offences of assaulting mother of two Samantha Lewis and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

He was also in breach of a suspended sentence imposed for possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Prosecutor Rhys Davies said the defendant and Ms Lewis had been together for about a year.

On May 2, the pair went out drinking and when they returned to her property, there was an argument and he grabbed her by the wrists, causing bruising.

On August 1, he was again at her home. He took her mobile phone from her, refused to return it, pushed her with force against the bannister and grabbed her wrists.

He was said to have previous convictions for driving with excess alcohol, in breach of a community punishment order, using a false instrument and driving while disqualified.

His counsel Stuart McLeese said: "He has now pulled his socks up. These are his first offences involving violence."

He said he had already been in custody 25 days.

"He takes full responsibility for what occurred. While on remand in prison, the victim has been writing to him," he said.

Recorder Lloyd Jones said: "This was domestic violence and the court takes a serious view of it. The offences are similar."

He said he had been told that Chickadaya was remorseful.

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

## Bridgend choir 'humbled' by memorial event invite



Pictured are the 12 surviving liberators of 's-Hertogenbosch .

THE Dutch city of 's-Hertogenbosch has shown eternal gratitude to the 53rd Welsh Division which relieved it from German occupation exactly 70 years ago.

The action was not without cost, as 146 British servicemen lost their lives in the assault, plus many more were wounded.

Each year, the city has invited surviving liberators to attend its commemoration at its Welsh Memorial. The passing of time has seen survivors reduced to 12 in number, all of whom were present this week, aged between 89 and 98 years young.

Liberators and their fallen colleagues are revered in this lovely city and in their presence, Bridgend Male Choir, making its second visit, were humbled, as were principal guests Sir Geoffrey Adams, British Ambassador; Jane Hutt, Welsh Assembly Minister, and Coun Margaret Jones.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



A flag of thanks to Wales was unveiled at the Memorial.

## Wedding Fayre

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# Jac wins a prestigious fostering care award



Jac receives his award.

**THE son of a Bridgend County Borough Council foster carer has won a prestigious national award at the Fostering Network's inaugural Fostering Excellence Awards, recently held in London.**

Jac Talbot of Bridgend, won the Fostering Sons and Daughters Award, for his contribution to foster care and for the real and lasting impact he has had on the lives of fostered young people who have lived in his home.

As well as picking up an award, Jac gave a talk on the need to develop services for sons and daughters, which was well-received.

Congratulating Jac on

his award, Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Jac has done Bridgend county borough and his family proud. Winning this national award is an outstanding achievement for Jac and demonstrates his commitment in going the extra mile."

"Fostering has a significant impact on the lives of foster carers and their families. Sons and daughters play a crucial role in helping foster children settle into a new home, as well as providing necessary support to vulnerable children. They are often the unsung heroes of fostering."

Jac is also an active member of BCBC's 'sons' and daughters' group, a network run by social workers to provide sons and daughters of foster carers with additional support.

## Youngsters are encouraged to enjoy reading

**EVERY child in year-4 at schools in Bridgend county borough is being signed up to become a library member – in an effort to get children aged eight and nine to read more.**

The Welsh Libraries' 'Every Child a Library Member' campaign is being launched locally with two exciting events – one at Bridgend Library and a second at Maesteg Library tomorrow, Friday November 7.

Each child will be presented with a promotional pack and library card.

Champion of this new initiative, Dr Rhys Jones – best known for his hit BBC series' including *Rhys to the Rescue* and *Dr Rhys Jones's Wildlife Patrol*, will be present to talk to the children about his adventures and lead them through a creative session.



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## Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters **BRIEF** and address them to: **The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)**

**LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## RETRACTABLE LEADS LEAD TO HAZARDS!

**I TOTALLY agree with Mr Williams' Porthcawl obstacle course letter in last week's GEM.**

Even though I am not a senior citizen, I have experienced the same hazards in John Street, Porthcawl.

I have two young Springer spaniels that are very active and I own retractable leads, but I have trained them to walk on short leads whenever we are near people.

The retractable lead is totally unsociable in places where there are lots of people and should only be used in open spaces to allow the dogs more freedom, without them running off before they are trained properly.

There are many responsible owners who control their dogs but, unfortunately, not many of them seem to be in Porthcawl.

If anyone was injured in this way, then I'm sure there would be

The owners of dogs who allow them to wander off on the leads fully extended when they are in towns are extremely irresponsible, and are not being kind to their animals. Many are often tied up outside shops barking and obviously distressed at being left.

It is not just John Street, but everywhere you go; people just leave their dogs run as they please on these leads and they expect everyone to move out of the way, instead of controlling their dogs properly.

There are many responsible owners who control their dogs but, unfortunately, not many of them seem to be in Porthcawl.

If anyone was injured in this way, then I'm sure there would be

## Porthcawl has a gospel message

**ON Saturday, November 8, Gilgal Baptist Church, Porthcawl, is hosting another evening of contemporary worship at the Grand Pavilion.**

Last year's sell-out evening with singer-songwriter, Stuart Townend, was a huge success, exceeding all expectations.

So much so that because the evening was a not-for-profit occasion, the church was able to donate a large sum to local charities: £1,000 to the Foodbank, £1,000 to Christians in Sport, £500 to Rest Bay Lifeguards, and a further £500 in smaller amounts to other local charities.

The buzz and atmosphere created by Stuart Townend and his local Porthcawl audience is sure to be repeated on Saturday by Lou Fellingham who, for almost two decades has led worship with her husband Nathan and group, Phatfish, recorded albums and toured extensively throughout the UK, Canada and America. Lou has also made

several appearances on the BBC's 'Songs of Praise' and her cover version of Stuart's 'In Christ Alone' has rung up over five million YouTube views!

Gilgal Baptist Church hopes you can come along for an evening of contemporary praise and worship, singing songs that clearly demonstrate the gospel message.

Tickets will be available on the evening (£10 each for adults and £5 each for children 11-17 years) doors open at 6.30pm and the concert itself will start at 7.30am.

IVOR WILLIAMS

### FESTIVE FAYRE

**A TABLE-top and Christmas fayre will be held at the Social Club, Hendre Road, Pencoed, on November 29, with proceeds going to Velindre Cancer Care.**

**Anyone wishing to have a table-top, can contact Diane on 01656 860521.**

grounds for substantial compensation. I, for one, would take legal action against the owner, if only to bring attention to this stupid culture of leaving dogs do as they like in towns.

The bicycle situation is just as bad. It is not just children but mostly adults that are riding the wrong way down John Street one-way system.

It is illegal to ride a bicycle down any one

way street the wrong way, yet only a few days ago, three ladies cycled past a PCSO walking down the street before 11am, and nothing was said to them.

What purpose do they serve if they do not uphold the law? If the authorities take no notice of the law, what hope have we?

D Jenkins,  
Porthcawl.

## Appeal to old shipmates...

**I AM confident, that readers of The GEM will once again respond to this appeal.**

The Royal Naval electrical branch association was formed to 'root out' those who served in the Royal Navy dealing with any electrical, radio, radar or computer installations, on the Royal Navy ships or shore establishments, and reunite them with their old shipmates.

## WATCH OUT FOR THESE SCAMS'

**I AM writing to tell people about a life insurance 'scam' – My wife and I took out life insurance 20 years ago and after reaching 85, it stopped.**

So we asked for the money owed – between the both of us, we were conned for £1,700.

I would like to warn people about another insurance rip-off'.

After reaching 60, I would suggest a funeral plan, not insurance.

I would hate to think what hospital insurance costs would be if we lose the NHS, so be careful where you put your cross next year.

Bill Lang, Barry.

## Free thermometers for the over 60s

**PORTHCAWL over 60s can get a free thermometer from their local Age Cymru.**

The older people's charity has produced bilingual thermometer cards as part of its annual 'Keep Well this Winter' campaign.

"Age Cymru has produced these thermometer cards to help older people suffering from hypothermia and temperature this winter."

## COMPANY EXPANDS, THANKS TO GRANT

**LOCAL packaging specialist Sarpack is set to increase turnover by more than £2m next year after opening a second manufacturing facility.**

Sarpack, which operates from two units in Maesteg, opened a new factory in Margam to meet the growing demand from its diverse client base and now employs 25 people.

The £780,000 investment in the property and new machinery was backed by £137,000 support from the Welsh Government's Economic Growth Fund. The funding boost has not only helped create 10 jobs but has seen a year on year increase in the company's turnover, rising from £4.2m in the last financial year, to £5.5m this year with a further predicted rise to £6.5m next year.

The company manufactures a wide range of tailor-made polythene and vital for our expansion."

## CASTLE PLAYERS' ARMISTICE EVENT

**BRIDGEND Castle Players, Cythrauen Community Association and Llan Lower Community Council are presenting an Armistice production, *The Prisoner's Friend*, a play by Peter Drake about the everyday lives and trials in the trenches of the Great War.**

The evening will include readings of actual letters from 'the Front', and there will also be some traditional songs from the period.

The event will be in Cythrauen Community Centre on Friday, November 7, at 8pm. Tickets are £5.

All proceeds will be donated to SSAFA and the Royal British Legion.

### HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 13)

**The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.**

**For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.**

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
06 Thur	05.25	10.1	17.50	10.2
07 Fri	06.13	10.3	18.36	10.3
08 Sat	06.56	10.2	19.15	10.1
09 Sun	07.35	9.9	19.56	9.8
10 Mon	08.14	9.7	20.33	9.6
11 Tues	08.52	9.5	21.11	9.0
12 Wed	09.27	8.9	21.51	8.5
13 Thur	10.08	8.4	22.37	7.9

**While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.**

**We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.**

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# Bridgend man (24) gets a suspended sentence for growing cannabis

POLICE found "a cannabis set-up" when they searched a house in Ogmore Vale, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Matthew Knight (24), a bricklayer, of Ystrad Fawr, Bridgend, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply, and producing the drug.

He was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and made subject to a supervision order for two years.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on November 21, the police saw Knight in Bridgend with a friend and they were aware of the smell of cannabis.

He was arrested, and the police later went to an address in Ogmore Vale, where they found a "set-up" growing cannabis.

In a room, they found two tents containing 15 plants.

He was interviewed and said: "No comment".

On his mobile phone were texts from persons contacting him for drugs.

His counsel, Nicholas Gareth

## CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT

by AJ SICLUNA

Jones, said: "A suspended sentence would be appropriate. He recently became a father."

At the time, said Mr Jones, Knight was a heavy cannabis user and was in difficult financial circumstances. He was involved with the Ogmore Vale operation and was there only to water the plants.

"He is anxious to set up home with his partner. He is not a sophisticated criminal, and he is in employment with good qualifications."

Recorder Elwen Evans QC told him: "Having regard for the quantity involved, and your personal circumstances, that you are in employment, I am persuaded this is not a case where immediate imprisonment has to be passed."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100 and the Recorder added: "You have been given an opportunity, it is up to you whether you take advantage of it."

Across the UK,

OFFICERS investigating a robbery in Porthcawl are appealing for witnesses.

During the early hours of Sunday, October 26 a 43-year-old man was walking home on Victoria Avenue, near Church Place and Suffolk Place junction, when he saw three men.

Two of the men are believed to have wrestled the phone off the man, which caused him to fall. All the men are described as white and aged early to mid twenties.

One of the three men is described as

being of medium to large build and around 5ft 10ins tall. Another is described as being of small to medium build with dark hair and may have been wearing a dark jacket. He is thought to be slightly shorter than the first man, at around 5ft 9ins tall.

Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400405178. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information

## Helping families to stay together

HELPING brothers and sisters stay together is the theme of National Adoption Week (November 9-13) which is being supported by the Western Bay Adoption Service.

The service is always looking for more adopters but this year's annual campaign focuses on siblings, with the aim to encourage more people to come forward who can adopt brothers and sisters together.

The Western Bay Adoption Service is made up of three collaborating local authority adoption agencies – Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

Across the UK,

around 4,000 children are waiting to find an adoptive family, and for every year a child waits, their chances of being adopted reduces by 20 per cent.

Tina, from the Bridgend area, who has adopted two children, said: "It has been the most amazing experience for us and there are several benefits to adopting siblings – the biggest one for me is being able to keep the children together permanently."

"The whole adoption process took a lot less time than we initially thought. From our first enquiry, to having our

children placed with us took around 13 months – but when you actually think about it, that's only a few months longer than it takes to have a baby anyway."

Since April, 57 children in the Western Bay region have already been adopted, while in 2013 – 2014 a total of 103 were adopted – the largest among the five regions in Wales.

For more information on becoming an adoptive parent, contact 01656 815150, or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/adoption.

## Christmas social event at Crossroads

CROSSROADS in Porthcawl is holding a Christmas social on Thursday, December 4 at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

Heather Jones will be singing a variety of folk

and Christmas songs to get everyone into the festive spirit!

There will be a raffle and the Friends of Crossroads Care, Bridgend 100 Club prize draw with cash prizes.

Ticket price £8 (including glass of wine or juice and mince pie); telephone or email for tickets to 01656 784100 or bridgend.county@crossroads.org.uk.



## Porthcawl GP honoured for services to community

DR DAVID PARRY, age, where he was awarded an MBE for 'Services to the Community', was recognised by the Porthcawl community at a recent celebration hosted by Tŷ Elis (Porthcawl Counselling Services).

Over 80 people attended the evening, which was held at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

The event was supported by the many of the Porthcawl charities and sporting activities. Dr Parry also chairs the trustees of Tŷ Elis, with over the past 45 years.

Mrs Edwina White, MBE, clinical director of Newlyn Nottage he has undertaken many responsibilities in support of the Rector, and he has also supported the many of the Porthcawl charities and sporting activities. Dr Parry also chairs the trustees of Tŷ Elis.

These were Kidney Tŷ Elis, a Research Porthcawl; the wonderful example to University of the Third

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# LOCAL CADETS PAY A VISIT TO HORIZON AIRCRAFT SERVICES



ABOVE: Cadets in front of the Fairey Gannet. Photograph by Sgt (ATC) Peckham.

## BRIDGEND PLANNING

Mr J Morgan - The Porthcawl Harbourside Mount, 7 Clevis Hill, CIC - Cosy Corner, The Porthcawl - Cut back branches of tree overhanging property. Caerau Development Trust - Rear of bus stop adjacent war memorial, Duffryn Road, Maesteg - Non-illuminated noticeboard. Mrs Hegarty - Newcastle House, 8 West Road, Bridgend - Thin group of maple (T1) by removing four stems and trim remaining stems, crown lift lime tree (T2). Mr Richard Hopkins - Ardwyn House, Hendre Road, Pencoed - Prune back overgrowth of trees by four metres and reduce height by five metres. Mr Barry O'Connell - Demolition of former Eyre Court House, church hall and erection Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl - Works to several sycamore trees including canopy reduction and crown reduction.

Mr Jim Hume - 19 Heol Eglwys, Penyfai, Bridgend - Remove existing flat roof dormer and replace with low pitch roof and raise main house roof - amended plans. Mr Anthony Smith - 15/16 High Street, Ogmor Vale - Rear single and double storey flat roof extensions and two first floor flats. Mr Martyn Watts-Jones - The Church Hall, Aberkenfig, Bridgend - Chapel, Bridgend - Demolition of former church hall and erection of two new semi-detached dwellings. Mr Appan - Sithamparappillai, Garn Stores, 46A Garn Road, Maesteg - Extend

retail unit at ground floor with second storey extension over, external steel staircase and provision of two bed flat over. Mrs Margaret Jenkins (secretary) - Blackmill Youth & Community Centre, Graig Terrace, Blackmill - Siting of steel container to rear for storage (5.0m x 3.0m x 2.5m high). Mr Lee McCausland - 129 Ewenny Road, Bridgend - Rear extension, dormer, garage and covered way. Wig Fach Property Ltd - Formerly Swn Y Don, Wig Fach, Porthcawl - Outline application to erect dwelling on site previously occupied by a chalet type dwelling. Mr Rory McLaggan - Chapel Barns, Bridgend - Relax standard time condition of P/09/375/LIS to allow further five years to commence works (listed building consent).

Mrs Leslie Tanner - The Queen's Hotel, 79 New Road, Porthcawl - Conversion of existing accommodation to two separate flats. Mr Richard Hopkins - Ardwyn House, Hendre Road, Pencoed, Bridgend - Retention of garage/storage shed with storage/office above. Master GR Richards - 9 Island Farm, Glan Y Nant, Tondu - Single storey extension to provide bedroom/bathroom. Mr John Davies - Land adjacent to Abercerdin School, Kenry Street, Evanstown - Change of use of land to stables and retention of stable structure (including relocation of one building). Ms Jane Taylor - Grounds of West Winds, 2 Locks Lane, Porthcawl - Building plots to accommodate two 2.5 storey dwellings - re-sub of P/14/446/OUT.

Riverside Funeral Services - Riverside Funeral Services, R/O Bridge Street, Ogmor Vale - Construct a detached single storey store building in existing store/yard area. Mr Matt Bryant - Oystercatcher public house car park, High Street, Laleston, Bridgend - Relax conditions 18 and 19 of P/12/476/FUL relating to Code 3 requirements. Mr Matt Bryant - The Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend - Relax conditions 17 and 18 of P/13/357/FUL relating to Code 3 requirements. Russell Willey - 6 Cwt Y Coed, Brackla, Bridgend - Convert integral garage and construct extension over - re-sub of P/14/379/FUL.

Mr Lee McCausland - Stormy Down Airfield, Stormy Down - Anaerobic digestion facility for 30-year period with associated buildings and works. Mr Arnold - The Cottage, Pontyryhl, Bridgend - Erect conservatory to front elevation. Llanmoor Development Co Ltd - Land off Maesteg Road, Tondu - Remove conditions 12 and 13 of P/12/847/FUL relating to code for sustainable homes. Mr Randell - 54 Bowham Avenue, Bridgend - Erect storm porch to front. Duvan Management - 67 John Street, Porthcawl - Demolish and rebuild elevation above shop front due to corrosion of supporting steelwork. BCBC Communities Directorate - Hut 9, Bridgend - Hut 9 tunnel interpretation works including steel installations describing length, depth and size of the escape tunnel. Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd - Plot 22, Afon Gardens, Abergavwy Road, Brynmenn - Alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension. Mr A Evans - 148 Ffordd Y Parc, Litchard - Conservatory extension to rear and store extension to front of property. Mr KPM Shakespeare - 11 Minffrwyd Close, Pencoed - Demolish detached garage and outbuilding and replace with three single storey extensions and attached garage. South Wales Wood Recycling Ltd - Former Brynethin Nurseries and S Wales Wood Recycling, Pant Heol Y Cyw - Change use of former nursery and res building to vehicle storage, new buildings, new access and associated works.

ON Wednesday, October 29, ten cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets and three staff attended Horizon Aircraft Services Ltd (Formerly Hunter Flying) at MoD St Athan to view the wide range of aircraft being maintained on the base.

The first aircraft shown to the cadets was the Fairey Gannet which is on long term rebuild to flying condition, which after many years is progressing well with the aim of having it airborne in time for next year's air show season.

The cadets were shown aircraft built in for assisting with Russia and the Czech Republic alongside duties.

were allowed to enter the passenger cabin of a Percival Pembroke which was used to carry high ranking officers when in service with the RAF, and may soon again carry passengers on experience flights which the company is looking into.

The line-up of five airworthy Hawker Hunter aircraft was a sight not often seen, and is poignant to the cadets as it is a Hunter that sits outside the squadron building.

Sgt (ATC) Peckham, who organised the visit, extends his thanks and appreciation to the staff at Horizon Aircraft Services for the time and effort given to the cadets during the visit, and thanks Mrs Dixon (CWC) and Sqn Ldr Lewis WSO RAFVR (T) British built aircraft and

Lindsay Thomas



Angela Lewis and Lisa Sendell, children's ward sisters at Princess of Wales Hospital at the conference in Barcelona.

## CHILDREN'S NURSES TEACH IN SIERRA LEONE

**POORLY** children in Sierra Leone are set to benefit from the expertise of two Bridgend nurses.

As part of ABMU's Africa Links Project, Angela Lewis and Lisa Sendell, children's ward sisters at Princess of Wales Hospital, have made several visits to Sierra Leone's only children's hospital, Ola During.

They taught local health care workers the skills needed to care for sick children and showed them how to pass on those skills to others.

During their latest visit to the country, Angela and Lisa turned their attention elsewhere, spending time at a general hospital in Lunsar, a more rural area of the country.

Here they taught staff to recognise and prioritise children who are really unwell and start treatment, as well as resuscitation techniques.

Angela said: "One in six children dies in Sierra Leone before their first birthday and one in four

die before they reach the age of five.

"Their illnesses are often treatable, such as pneumonia or diarrhoea, but the staff aren't trained to recognise the severity of their condition or how to care for it."

"By establishing these links and providing training, we can help improve child health and stop preventable deaths."

Following their visit to Lunsar, Angela and Lisa were invited to present their work at an international conference in Barcelona.

They explained to paediatric doctors and nurses from across the world, including America, Australia and China, how their training helps.

Angela said: "Nurses in Sierra Leone only train in general medicine, they don't specialise in paediatric care."

"Through our training, they gain the knowledge and skills they need to give children in their country the best possible start to life."

## Pirates in Porthcawl!



THE Mid Glamorgan Savoyards are staging *Pirates of Penzance* on Saturday, November 15 in The Grand Pavilion at 7.30pm for another Gilbert and Sullivan treat with musical director, Roger Hudd taking the rudder once more.

This will be the Mid Glamorgan Savoyards' 20th production, and *The Pirates of Penzance* is one of the most well known G&S operettas.

The plot revolves around the young nobleman, Frederic, mistakenly apprenticed to a pirate instead of a pilot, after his ex-nurse, Ruth, misheard her master's orders for his son's future career.

By the time his apprenticeship ends, we learn that that his pirate companions have been rather a failure at pirating - soft-heartedness does not make it pay.

There's comedy, of course, of the policemen; a love triangle; pirates versus noblemen; good against bad - all the elements are here.

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## Pub quiz windfall for charity

ON Sunday, for children in need November 2, I had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for the sum of £500 to Myfanwy Bater in aid of Action for Children and Young Carers in Bridgend, a charity providing trips and activities

£5,800 for 15 different charities, which is an outstanding amount to help worthy causes.

The money has been raised from a Sunday evening quiz held at The Swan Inn in Nottage over the last few weeks. I host the quiz myself and am delighted with the generosity of fellow quizzers. Since January 2013, the quiz has made

Andrew, Kay and David Boswell, Marion and Clive Jones who collected the money, dealt out raffle tickets for correct answers and counted funds collected over the weeks. Dickie Harris also contributed by selling the football card each week.

Special thanks also go to Eddie Edwards and

Nigel Strong who

donated mouthwatering vegetables, raising £83.66 between them,

not forgetting Dave and Anne Prosser for their delicious home-made jam, which added a further £6 to the charity.

I would personally like to thank all at The Swan Inn for their generous donation of £150 to my husband Andrew, who is undergoing an operation and other treatment for cancer, a kind gesture which is greatly appreciated.

The quiz will continue

at 6pm every Sunday,

with the new charity Crossroads Care. All are welcome to participate, with no written pages.

Come along and join in the fun at any time during the evening!

HUGH JAMES WILLIAMS

at Carnegie House in Bridgend.

Two months have passed since Wales hosted the 2014 Nato Summit, the largest international gathering

the UK has ever seen.

While the presidents,

prime ministers and

diplomats have moved

on, the important issues

discussed at that summit

remain as important and

real as ever.

Explaining the

timeliness of an event

such as this, and its

connection to the

international situation,

Madeleine Moon said:

"As a member of Nato's

Parliamentary Assembly,

I have been fortunate

enough to visit Turkey,

one of our key Nato

allies, and one of the

countries most affected

by the chaos engulfing

the Middle East.

"While in many ways

Turkey seems a distant event needed to be

country, especially from

where we are here in

day, and an important

meeting in Scotland over

there seem far removed

the future of Europe

from our lives here, one

of the things I have learned

from my time in the

could join us.

{Unfortunately, had to

how connected we all pull out at the last

are, how the threat of

minute. Such are the

extremism there can

perils and hurdles that go

impact us here, and the

with organising an event

importance

in such turbulent times."

international

organisations like Nato

in keeping the UK safe

tickets are free, and

secure."

She continued: "So

places will be allocated

complicated and rapidly

on a 'first come first

changing

are served' basis to those

international

affairs who contact me for a

today that even this local

place on 01656 750002

event was affected.

"Donations to the

local foodbank are

encouraged and will be

collected throughout the

event."

## Opticians' staff raise £250 for their chosen charities



PICTURED (left to right): Mairwen Chess, Specsavers, Nora Clarke of Guide Dogs, Jacintha Chen, Carol Oakley and Dylan Williams, all of Specsavers, Bridgend, with Yaran the guide dog.

STAFF raised more than £270 for charity by hosting events in aid of Guide Dogs and Breast Cancer Care at their Specsavers store on Adare Street.

They swapped their uniforms for brightly coloured neon clothing, and donated confectionery and children's toys as prizes for a raffle in aid of Guide Dogs.

Eight-month-old guide dog Yaran also visited the store with her trainer Nora Clarke, as part of the fundraising activities which produced a total of £93.43 for the charity.

The store also held its annual cake bake in October in aid of Breast Cancer Care, with staff baking a range of sweet and savoury treats to sell in store. The event was held to mark Breast Cancer Awareness



Carol Oakley of Specsavers, Bridgend during fundraising event.

Month, with a total of £177.77 raised for the cause.

Ann Simpkin, director of Specsavers in Bridgend, said: "It's been a busy few weeks for everyone at the store ahead of our fundraising activities and we're absolutely delighted to have raised £271 for Guide Dogs and Breast Cancer Care.

"As October was Breast Cancer Awareness

Month, we were keen to do our bit for the national campaign, so the store was transformed into a sea of pink and we encouraged our customers to donate by buying some of our tasty treats.

"We also had a lot of fun when we had a visit from a special visitor this month. Yaran the guide dog was certainly a hit with staff and customers, and it was fantastic to

raise awareness for such a wonderful charity, which provides invaluable help to blind and partially sighted individuals.

"I'd like to thank the local community for their support because without their generosity, we would not have been able to donate these all important funds to Guide Dogs and Breast Cancer Care."

## Local MP offers chance to question a Nato expert

**BRIDGEND MP**  
Madeleine Moon will be hosting a question and answer session with Hugh Bayley, MP for York and the Nato Parliamentary Assembly president on Tuesday, November 11 (3.30pm – 5.30pm) at Carnegie House in Bridgend.



Turkey seems a distant event needed to be country, especially from where we are here in day, and an important meeting in Scotland over there seem far removed the future of Europe from our lives here, one of the things I have learned from my time in the could join us. Assembly, however, is how connected we all pull out at the last are, how the threat of minute. Such are the extremism there can perils and hurdles that go impact us here, and the with organising an event importance of in such turbulent times." international organisations like Nato in keeping the UK safe, tickets are free, and secure." She continued: "So places will be allocated complicated and rapidly on a 'first come first changing are served' basis to those international affairs who contact me for a today that even this local place on 01656 750002 event was affected. "A hearing on the local foodbank are Ebola outbreak in West Africa by the committee Mr Bayley sits on meant that the timing of the

## FREE LEGAL ADVICE FROM HUGH JAMES

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Katie McCraith will be in BRIDGEND to talk about:

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- Work place injuries including factory, construction, agricultural, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- Industrial illness including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Katie will be at Brackla Community Centre, 1 Whitethorn Dr, Bridgend CF31 2PQ on the date listed below.

Monday 10 November 10am - 4.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Katie McCraith

T: 0800 0938240

E: katie.mccraith@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend



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# Parc Prison boss Paul's twin awards for caring work with prisoners

**Paul Goodridge with his award.**



**PALLIATIVE care protocol pioneered by manager Paul Goodridge at HMP Parc in Bridgend has been singled out by a service watchdog as an example to other prisons in the Wales Care Awards.**

One prisoner is on record as saying he would prefer to go back into Parc to end his days there, rather than the hospital where he had been taken to die.

The awards are in association with Care Forum Wales, a not-for-profit organisation set up in 1993 to give independent care providers a single professional voice with which to speak on one of the most important issues of our time – how to provide better quality care for those who need it most.

At the presentation ceremony in City Hall, Cardiff, he took the silver award in the 'Excellence in Palliative and End of Life Care' category, sponsored by Barclays Corporate.

He received a standing ovation when he walked up the stage to receive the special Spirit of Care

Award, sponsored by Barchester Health Care.

The evening, sponsored by Barclays Bank, was compered by the popular TV newsreader Lucy Owen.

Paul (45) said: "I was completely shocked to receive the special Spirit of Care Award and to get a standing ovation for doing so from the whole room as I went to collect it."

"I was also extremely pleased to win the silver award in the Excellence in Palliative and End of Life Care.

"A prison is almost like a hidden community and the work that is done there can sometimes be overlooked, so it was good to see it recognised in this way."

In 1997 Paul, who lives in Bridgend with his wife of seven years, joined the company contracted to run prisons on behalf of the Government first known as Securicor and now called G4S.

After becoming operational manager at Parc in charge of the day to day running of the prison, four years ago Paul began a thorough review of the way the needs of older and end of life prisoners were being addressed.

He said: "At Parc we have a large proportion of older prisoners, which is approximately 13 per cent of the total prison population, compared to the national average of eight per cent.

"Like any other section of society, people in a prison setting also reach the end of their lives and although a number go into hospital, some of them want to remain in a prison to die in an environment where there are very close peer groups and they are amongst people they know and trust.

"As a result of the review we carried out, we worked very closely with Macmillan Cancer Care, local health authorities and our own health care team, to put in place an appropriate end of life pathway.

"The result was that we set up an Assisted Living Unit at Parc whose five staff members have been hand-picked for their enhanced empathy skills.

"The team is very close knit and shows drive and compassion. We have even had members of the team working in a private care home to give them more understanding."

## Women's trek in support of Breast Cancer Care

A woman from Barry, who recovered from a life-threatening disease, leaves for Cuba tomorrow (Friday, November 7) to undertake a mountain trek to raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Care.

by GEM REPORTER

undertaken a training regime in recent weeks to give them the confidence to take on a mountain range in Cuba.

"We've done a lot of walking in the Brecon Beacons and the Wye Valley. A recent weekend away in the Brecon Beacons was challenging but enjoyable.

"We have been training really hard, walking between 19 kms and 22 kms most weekends, as well as trying to fit in time for fundraising.

"This is a huge challenge for us both mentally and physically. We will be trekking for a distance of 73 kilometres over five days. It means walking between six and eight hours a day. We will be trekking from Havana to Trinidad through the Escambray Mountains.

"The terrain will be undulating and tough going. We will be bathing in waterfalls and sleeping in haciendas!

"We are both self-funding the trek which means all the money we raise will go 100 per cent to the charity.

"We have chosen to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care because their services were a great support to us when we were diagnosed.

"Breast Cancer Care is the only UK wide charity providing specialist support and expert information for anyone affected by breast cancer."

If you would like to sponsor the ladies, please go to: [www.justgiving.com/cubantrek](http://www.justgiving.com/cubantrek)

Elaine Nicholas will be accompanied by her friend Sue Youngman from Cardiff.

Elaine told The GEM: "In the past, we both experienced getting the devastating news that we had breast cancer and having our lives changed forever.

"The treatment was tough but we got through it and it made us stronger, more courageous and more compassionate to the pain of others.

"Looking back, both Sue and I genuinely believe that our experience has had a positive impact on our lives. We've been given a second chance and we're grabbing it with both hands.

"The trek is a celebration of our recovery and we are really excited to be going, as it's been a dream for a couple of years."

Elaine and Sue, who met when they became Breast Cancer Care volunteers, have

Read your GEM online - just visit [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)

## Young people support anti-bullying quiz



**PICTURED (left to right): Samantha Vincent (winner of first prize – iPod Shuffle and BSEB goody bag) Bethanie Denyer (winner of second prize – £20 Parkdean voucher, adventure golf and BSEB goody bag) and Matthew Bird (winner of seventh prize – a Medal of Honour t-shirt and a BSEB goody bag).**

**AN on-line bullying quiz run by Bridgend Says 'End Bullying,' has proved to be a big success!**

Young people from all across the county entered the quiz, which coincided with the project's Big Step Against Bullying walk back in July.

Winners were announced last week on its Facebook page 'bseb events' and the picture shows some of the winners who attended a presentation at the Griffin Park Health and Wellbeing Centre in Porthcawl on Tuesday,

The project would like to thank all the young people that entered the quiz and all the companies that donated prizes.

For further information on Bridgend Says 'End Bullying' or for any help or advice on bullying matters, contact the team on 01656 754920, by e-mail on [bseb@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:bseb@bridgend.gov.uk) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bsebevents](http://www.facebook.com/bsebevents).

Dean John

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS REINDEER COMPETITION

**Porthcawl shops taking part in the competition will be displaying the poster shown on the right .**



**IT is week four of the GEM reindeer competition – organised by Porthcawl Town Twinning Association and Porthcawl Chamber of Trade.**

By now, youngsters taking part should have collected plenty of clues as they follow the story of Santa's missing reindeer.

Don't worry, if you have missed the first three episodes, they can still be read via The

GEM's online edition.

Copies of those first three episodes can also be collected from the Porthcawl Town Council office in Victoria Avenue.

The full competition rules were printed with

parts one and two.

Part four of the story is below, and keep a look out for the poster (above) which will identify which Porthcawl shops are taking part in the competition.

## The Mysterious Disappearance of Father Christmas' Reindeer

### Part 4 Children Help Father Christmas

**Written by Joël Guerriau (Mayor of St Sébastien sur Loire, Senator and children's author)**

**Illustrated by Mathieu Redelsperger  
Translated by Melanie Weaver  
(Porthcawl St Sébastien Town Twinning Association)**

**FATHER CHRISTMAS** only had one more way to find his friends: that was to ask children from every country to help. He decided to launch a missing persons' notice to be broadcast by all the world's media and to be displayed in all schools and libraries:

Dear children,

My reindeer have been transformed into wooden figurines by a wicked witch. They have been scattered throughout the world. Can you help me find them?

Rudolph has a red nose, Dasher has a stopwatch around his neck,

Dancer is wearing an oriental scarf, Vixen and Prancer who is the most muscular, are inseparable,

Comet is always smiling,

Cupid has a white mark on his thigh, Blitzen is wearing a golden lantern.

I am counting on you, you are my only hope.

Father Christmas

Several days later Alun found Comet in Porthcawl, Wales, while buying some toffees, his favourite sweets. Ingo, a young German from Glindé, came face to face with Prancer and Vixen in the foyer of the town hall.

In Cernavoda in Romania, Bogdan, who was seven years old, marvelled at the red nose which was in the middle of hydrangea flowers in his florist.

Mariská, a pretty Hungarian girl from Kaposvar was stunned to see Cupid covered with multi-coloured necklaces in a jewellery shop.



In a souk in Kati in Mali, Bouba unearthed Blitzen in a junk shop selling pottery.

Father Christmas' joy was so immense each time he found one of his reindeer.

Unfortunately, only six of them had been found and he started to lose all hope of seeing the other three one day.

Anne Lou, a little girl from Brittany stood speechless with joy in front of Dancer in a pancake restaurant in Locronan, and Else from Copenhagen recognised Dasher in the middle of a string of little Danish flags.

Radio and television had broadcast their story a lot, because just a short time after being found, the two reindeer were stolen.

Obviously, having been covered by the papers too well, Bright Spark and Ugly Dora succeeded in stealing the two reindeer with the intention of burning them in their chimney.

What will happen to the reindeer? Read the next edition of The GEM to uncover what happens next...

# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Maesteg town hall remembers I HAD the pleasure of being at the recent Remembrance Day concert/service organised by the Royal British Legion.**

Music was provided by the Briton Ferry Silver Band, and Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir. This year was a special event in recognition of 100 years since the start of World War One.

Comper Anthony Bwyte introduced the acts, starting with the brass band under its musical director Jeff Pearce. Formed in 1910, the band under Jeff's direction competed in the National Finals of 2001/2002.

Jeff studied music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He is also head of brass for West Glamorgan.

Music from 1914 was followed by Louis Armstrong's 'St Louis Blues', Paul Robeson's 'Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child' and Glenn Miller's 'Midnight Serenade'.

Then came Maesteg Gleemen and musical director Alun Hodges with accompanist Suzanne Hodges. Helped by assistant musical director, Geraint John (trumpet) they performed the song played at US President Ronald Reagan's funeral 'Mansion of the Lord' and, appropriately, 'Now the day is over'.

A lovely solo piece

by tenor Anthony Bwyte, the Robat Arwyn song 'Anfonaf Angel/Guardian angel', had been recorded on a CD by Bryn Terfel to raise funds for Wales Air Ambulance Service.

Anthony introduced Tony Kingsbury, who led the audience in well-known songs from the First and Second World Wars.

The second half began with the hymn 'O Valiant Hearts' and the procession of Standards and the clergy, followed by a short service led by the ministers of the Llyn Valley, the Exhortation, Last Post, with two minutes' silence and Reveille.

Then came the Epitaph from the Kohima War Memorial and the UK and Welsh National Anthems.

The Gleemen rehearse in the British Legion club, Commercial Street on Monday and Thursday from 7pm to 8.30pm and welcome new members.

**Royal British Legion**  
I HAVE been advised that the following Remembrance events will be taking place on Sunday, November 9.

In Aberkenfig Square at 10.45am, there will be the reading of the names of the fallen, laying of wreaths and the Last Post.

Everyone is then welcome to take a short stroll to St John's church to attend the Armistice service.

In Cefn Cribwr, the village Remembrance Sunday service is being held this year in Nebo chapel at 10.55am (please arrive by

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:*

*If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

**Contact details:** CLIVE MITCHELL  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399  
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Ashley Matthews, 15.1 mph. Year-1 – Imogen Davies, 19.1 mph; Levi McCormick, 28.6 mph. Year-2 – Nia Lewis, 27.7 mph; Sam Whitefield, 33.5 mph. Year-3 – Darcey Bater, 26.8 mph; Logan Cinderby, 31.2 mph. Year-4 – Eloise Whitefield, 26.4 mph; Gethin Lewis, 34.5 mph. Year-5 – Tygan Crocker, 22.6 mph; Oliver Burrows, 45 mph. Year-6 – Cadi Thomas, 34.5 mph; Thomas Sage, 43.4 mph.

The teachers' competition was won by trainee teacher, Miss Adams, who clocked up 40.7 mph in bare feet!! She was closely followed by Mrs Graham with 40.2 mph!

Kerry would like to thank everyone who has sponsored events at Tynhyrehol, which has raised £648.25.

It is intended to use the money for literacy and numeracy projects at the school.

**Blackmill Village Hall**  
THE ladies of

Blackmill are organising a bring and buy sale on Saturday, November 15 at the Village Hall at 12 noon and all the money raised will be going to LATCH.

Donations are welcomed. Pat Griffiths in the Blackmill village shop will take donations or telephone 01443 676171 and collection of items will be arranged.

At the sale, there will be home-cooked food, as well as gifts for Christmas, good quality clothes, books, toys, cards etc and a raffle. Everyone is welcome.

The charity LATCH supports the children and their families who are being treated by the Oncology Unit at the Children's Hospital of Wales.

In 2005, the Paediatric Oncology Unit opened modern facilities at the Children's Hospital of Wales and £800,000 was raised by LATCH to build an extra storey at the new hospital.

LATCH can't do this without the help of

people; donations can be made at <http://www.latchwales.org>

## St David's Church, Wyndham

THE congregations of St Tyfodwg's Church, Glanogvr, are combining at St David's on Sunday, November 9 at 9.30am to attend a special Remembrance Day service.

Everyone is welcome to go along.

## Tondu Art Society

THIS old established society of 50 artists is holding its winter art exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Personly, Aberkenfig, over four days from November 8-11 at 10am to 6pm, except Sunday (11am to 4pm).

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

The competition for this show will be paintings covering the 'Centenary of Dylan Thomas'.

## 'YOU SURE PICKED A SPOOKY NIGHT FOR A WALK IN PORTHCAWL...'



ON Friday, October 31, the Porthcawl around the by-ways of Nottage and down a Paranormal Team conducted their usual spooky lane! 'Ghost Talk and Walk' at the Swan Inn, "It was a eerie night for all concerned Nottage, Porthcawl, and reported "a and the team would like to thank all who attended and enjoyed the eerie activities on fantastic turnout."

Following a short talk by Hayley Williams, the group were led on a walk along the way," said Hayley.

AT Tynhyrehol primary school, Llangeinor, Kerry Jones the acting headteacher would like to congratulate the pupils and staff at the school who took part in the recent football speed shot competition.

Every pupil was presented with a certificate recording their fastest shot, while the pupils who recorded the fastest shot in their age group were presented with a gold certificate.

The following pupils had the fastest shot in their section:

Nursery – Madison Hale, 15.5 mph; Rohan Davies, 17.8 mph. Reception – Grace Pascoe, 17.2 mph;

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# FAMILY WELCOME HOME THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP Amazing Ben is a living miracle!

by GEM REPORTER



**ABOVE:** Ben is back in Rhoose – and Lisa said: "It's where he belongs, and we can start living our happy ever after."

## Local police appeal after pensioner is attacked on a pathway

POLICE in Barry are appealing for information after a 79-year-old

gentleman was pushed to the ground by two men in an apparent unprovoked attack.

The assault happened on the pathway between Ogmore By Sea and Southerndown between 6pm and 7pm on Saturday, October 11.

The elderly man received minor cuts and bruising to his face and knees.

PC Jason Young said: "This appears to be a random unprovoked attack on

an elderly gentleman which fortunately didn't result in any serious injuries.

"We would like anyone who was in the area around the time of the incident to come forward with any information they may have".

*Anyone with information about the incident should call South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400383454.*

*Alternatively Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information).*

## The Dutch thank Wales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Also attending were the Lord Mayor of Cardiff and representatives of the armed services and host city.

The singing part of the tour was a huge success, with an 800-seat sold out concert at the Jheronimus Bosch Centre; 'a capella' performance at St Jan's Cathedral; social performance at the De Taling Nursing Home; commemorative singing of 'Mansions of the Lord' and 'Hen Wlad Fy'n Hadau' at the Menin Gate, Ypres and any amount of impromptu tunes at various venues.

Bridgend Male Choir now looks forward to supporting the Poppy Appeal concert at the Sonty Theatre, Bridgend College Campus this Saturday (November 8) and to attending the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph on the following morning.

David T Burt

A superfit Rhoose man who suffered a serious illness, endured a coma and ended up being paralysed down one side of his body, returned home last week after a courageous battle to regain his health.

Ben Stradling (37), who works on the Vale Council's recycling team and is a keen surfer had contracted a serious strain of meningitis.

On October 31, relieved friends and family gathered in the village to welcome him home.

His sister Anna told The GEM: "On Halloween, Ben was able to return to the flat he shares with his fiancee Lisa Turner following 10 months in hospital.

"Ben, who is normally seen running with the council recycling lorries, tragically caught a serious strain of meningitis on January 4 this year.

"He spent a month in an induced coma and has been in Rookwood hospital since March."

Ben had to undergo an intense

rehabilitation programme because the illness triggered a stroke paralysing the left hand side of his body.

Anna said he had shown an indomitable spirit which included regaining his ability to walk so he could cope when he returned home.

"Ben was never to be defeated and has always remained positive. His hard work has paid off. He has re-learned how to walk and completed his goal of walking up and down stairs so he could return to his flat.

"His next goal is to get fitter and stronger with the ultimate aim of returning to work. He also wants to be able to get back to surfing.

"Ben is a living miracle and an inspiration to other people on how they should never give up."

Ben's family and friends were thrilled to see him back home and had even put up a 'Welcome Home' banner at the entrance to the flats.

Lisa said: "It has been a tough 10 months, but he's home now – where he belongs, and we can now start living our happy ever after."

**ABOVE:** Family and friends were thrilled to see Ben back home in Rhoose and had put up a special 'Welcome Home' banner.



## PORTHCAWL ANNUAL ZOMBIE WALK RAISES £600 FOR TY HAFAN CHARITY

**PHOTOS by RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)**  
[www.Randell.John.Photography.com](http://www.Randell.John.Photography.com)  
01656 662324

'The Zombie Walk in Porthcawl' took place on Saturday November 1.

It was the second annual event organised by Chris Warlow of Porthcawl.

Approximately 50 zombies took part, split into two groups which met up at The Rose and Crown in Nottage and The Ancient Briton in Newton, before walking around the town with collection buckets.

As of Sunday morning over £600 was raised for Ty Hafan Children's Hospital.



### Autumn fayre

AN autumn fayre will be held on Saturday, November 8 in Pencoed Welfare Hall, 10am to 12 noon.

There will be various craft stalls and tombola, organised by Pencoed WI who will be giving a donation from proceeds to First Responders.

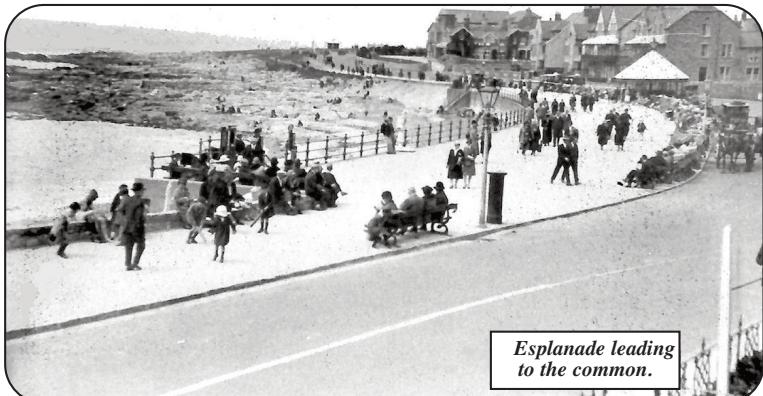
## Halloween charity effort in Porthcawl

*Photo by Malcolm Nugent.*



**ABOVE:** The Spar Newton village shop assistants were collecting for charity, dressed in Halloween-appropriate costumes.

# Porthcawl News – November 1914



*Esplanade leading to the common.*

**NOVEMBER 1914** began with the sad news that 2nd Lieutenant John William Harfod Nicholl, 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment had been killed in action on October 29 prior to the 1st Battle of Ypres, aged 22.

He is commemorated at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Although Lt Nicholl had been the heir to the Merthyr Mawr estate, his death would not only have been received with deep regret in the town of Bridgend but, also, in Porthcawl where his father Lt Col JID Nicholl, as officer in command of the Glamorgan Yeomanry was often to be seen in camp during previous summers.

Local reports of dead and wounded were becoming an all too common occurrence in the press.

It is worth stopping for a moment in remembrance of the sacrifice and extreme bravery of Lt Nicholl's battalion, 2nd Welsh.

Two units of the battalion had landed in France on August 12, 1914 yet by October 31, the day selected by the Kaiser for his triumphant entry into Ypres, only 130 had survived.

They held their position that day against five fresh German battalions (5,000+). After the first hour the Welsh totalled 45, 22 of them wounded, but they still fought on.

The Kaiser's advance had been thwarted. Such selfless acts of heroism were to prevail in many other battalions throughout the war.

Yet the mindset of that November was still to encourage men to enlist. Patriotic families

of Porthcawl were praised for their number enlisting: 'Mr John Rowe, of Lias Cottages, Porthcawl, has joined the colours. He has four sons, a son-in-law, and two brothers serving with the Colours. Surely, this is a fighting family.' (Porthcawl News, November 12, 1914.)

Porthcawl itself had yet to lose a man; however, within the month Bombadier David Coleman Williams was home having been severely wounded. Bombardier Williams RHA had enlisted in 1910 as a reservist, yet was honourably discharged in February 1915, as a result of his wounds.

Eventually he wore a 'wound stripe' from 1916, the year of its inception to honour men who had been wounded in combat. He was finally awarded the 'Silver War Badge', in May 1918.

Also in 1918, after many attempts to secure a pension, he was awarded 24 shillings per week for a period of 13 weeks. Life must have proved all the more difficult for Bdr Williams, as he actually was a coal merchant by trade and had limited movement in his right arm.

The main excitement affecting the town in November was the arrival of various battalions of the new Welsh Army Corps. In response to Lloyd-George's appeal for a Welsh Army, men all over Wales flocked to the colours.

'I should like to see a Welsh army in the field. I should like to see the race that fought the Normans for hundreds of years in their struggle for freedom, the race that fought for a generation under Glendower, against the greatest captain in

Europe, I should like to see that race give a good account of itself in this struggle and they are going to do it.'

Among the formation of many battalions inspired by this speech were the Rhondda 10th and 13th Battalions, Welsh Regiment.

The 13th Battalion, 2nd Rhondda Pals were divided into two units for training purposes. Approximately 700 were sent to Rhyl; and on November 23, over 900 men were sent to Porthcawl under the command of Colonel Pearson.

Training was observed at Porthcawl daily, 7am – 4pm along the Esplanade and up to Lock's Common, 'where there is a capital field range.' The households that agreed to billet the men received 15 shillings per man. Following on the heels of the 13th Battalion was the 16th (Cardiff City) Battalion, Welsh Regiment, who arrived at Porthcawl on November 27, 1914.

Under the command of Captain Frank Hill Gaskell they were billeted with friends, in a continuous row of houses at a cost of 23s/4d per man. One soldier wrote home: 'We are billeted in the best of houses, we receive the best possible food to obtain, and sleep in beds fit for any gentleman to sleep in.'

The discrepancy of billet costs was not lost on local residents. After much discussion, a fixed payment of 17s/6d per soldier was agreed upon regarding billeting for the rest of the war.

Captain Gaskell from Llanishen had already served with the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Regiment at the front, during which time he was shot in the jaw. It was while he was home convalescing that he was asked to command the new 16th Battalion Welsh Regiment raised at Cardiff.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Gaskell had already forged links with Porthcawl during previous years. Not only had he rented a house at 3, Esplanade Avenue with his wife, Violet, and had his

Mary christened at the local Catholic church in 1913;

but in that same year he accompanied Major John Lambert, a former Chairman of Porthcawl Town Council, in a town recruitment drive encouraging ex-servicemen to enlist in the reserves, should there be a war in Europe.

Therefore, along with Porthcawl's reputation as a well-established garrison town, it was not surprising that he wished the 16th to be transferred to Porthcawl for initial training.

As a result of so many soldiers staying in the town the morning 'Reveille' was sounded in most streets. It also woke up most residents; one of whom exclaimed that he would rather be 'woken by the bugle of the friend than by the guns of the enemy'.

During this time of rapid recruitment it is interesting to note that a missive from the War Office stated that soldiers on duty would be able to converse in their native tongue but that all orders would be given in English.

Aside from military matters, townswomen were alerted to the possibility of Zeppelin raids and were advised to draw their blinds after dark.

Schoolchildren were taught to knit and sew items to send to servicemen serving abroad and Boy Scouts,

apart from helping the coast watchers, were encouraged to collect up all waste paper for the war effort.

The war, it seemed, would not be over by Christmas.

Join me next month,

and find out the results of the rugby and soccer matches played between these two battalions at Porthcawl, and how the town prepared for Christmas.

Ceri Joseph,

Porthcawl Museum.

Visit Porthcawl

Museum, November 15

– 29, 'Battalions at

Porthcawl.' The

exhibition will reflect

the 13th and 16th

Battalion Welsh

Regiment's time in the

town.

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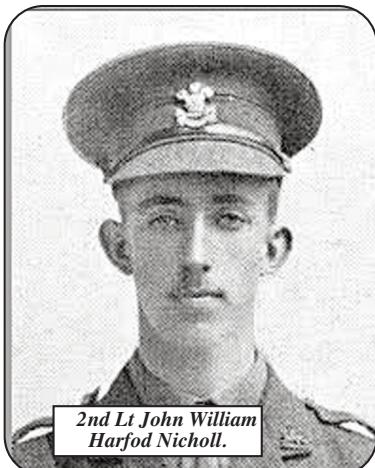
website

porthcawl and the great

war.com.



*Lt Colonel Frank H Gaskell.*



*2nd Lt John William Harfod Nicholl.*

## Pupils recycle to the beat during eco week!



*ABOVE: Pupils at Cefn Glas Infants School have made a selection of musical instruments out of recycled materials.*

### MODERN music is rubbish – it's official!

Well, at least it is at Cefn Glas Infants School in Bridgend where pupils have been making musical instruments out of materials that were destined for rubbish bags and recycling bins.

During their annual eco week, the whole school took part in a selection of activities linked to recycling and music, with each class being challenged to build an instrument.

Headteacher Sue Henderson said: "We used this year's eco week, co-ordinated by teacher Sian Matthews, to raise awareness of a range of topics including recycling, climate change, fair trade, and the need to look after our world. The pupils were really enthusiastic about it and thoroughly enjoyed making the recycled instruments and finding out how much fun they can have by re-using materials."

"We also marked eco week by harvesting



*ABOVE: The school's eco week saw pupils combine recycling and music.*

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## CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ABERKENFIG

**LOOKING for something to do on Saturday, November 29?**

Well, come down to Aberkenfig Welfare Hall for Bridgend Castle Players' Christmas Fayre!

There will be craft stalls, gift stalls, Santa's Grotto and much, much more! So, come along between 12 noon and 4pm to see if you can find a gift for someone, or just for yourself!

# Told In The Huts – the YMCA gift book

I HAD the honour of writing the 2014 introduction to 'Told In The Huts' – The YMCA gift book first published in 1916.

This is what I had to say: "In the original introduction to this book, Arthur K Yapp tells how within days of the start of the First World War the YMCA huts and hostels came into being.

"The book was

"And as the long gone

published with a view to boosting YMCA funds and also to draw attention 'to one of the greatest social and religious movements of our time'. The stories therein, which were contributed by service men and others, are both humorous and sad. They give us more than a glimpse of those dark days and the people who lived through them 100 years ago."

Gareth and Michael

co-writers of Gareth's inspiring autobiography *Proud* and during the writing of the book the two men have become friends and clearly trust and respect each other greatly.

Gradually, through their conversation and Michael's pertinent questioning, Gareth's character and his moving story began to emerge.

For more information on obtaining a copy of this book e-mail enquiries@cardiffymcaha.co.uk or see their website at www.cardiffymcaha.co.uk.

Brian Lee

# 'ALFIE' TELLS HIS STORY TO BOOK FESTIVAL AUDIENCE

THERE was plenty of laughter, and some tears too, last Thursday (October 30) when former Welsh and British Lions captain Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas was interviewed by award-winning sports writer Michael Calvin at the Cowbridge Book Festival.

Gareth and Michael

co-writers of Gareth's

inspiring autobiography *Proud* and during the writing of the book the two men have become friends and clearly trust and respect each other greatly.

Gradually, through their conversation and Michael's pertinent questioning, Gareth's character and his moving story began to emerge.

He is a very charismatic and exuberant man with a huge sense of fun and great empathy for others. Obviously, these are necessary qualities for



Gareth Thomas and Michael Calvin had plenty of books to sign. (Photograph by Dave Allen).

any successful

international sports

and, eventually, he was

able to accept the fact that

he was, Gareth Thomas

rugby player, and his

sexuality was a non-

issue!

He is also extremely aware of his place in the sporting history of his beloved home town of Bridgend but it is his passion for Wales, and his pride in the red jersey and leading Wales to a

Grand Slam Victory, (surely every captain's dream), that really defines him.

But Gareth is also an honest man and living in denial about his sexuality nearly cost him his life. With the love and support of family, friends, team mates and, particularly, former assistant coach Scott Johnston, he found the courage to come out.

Having the like 'Alfie' are evolving and heroes

are endorsement of those

people who really meant from the front, as any

something to him, was a rugby captain of his

life-changer for Gareth

standing must.

and, eventually, he was

able to accept the fact that

he was, Gareth Thomas

rugby player, and his

sexuality was a non-

issue!

Heroes emerge for

many reasons and Gareth Thomas presented an appreciative audience with a unique example.

During an emotionally charged event, he described the unusually difficult transition from international rugby hero to an icon for all those young men, and women, who wrestle with the challenge of revealing their true sexuality to family, friends and colleagues.

Thankfully, the public attitude to homosexuality is evolving and heroes

are like 'Alfie' are

courageously leading

the way for others.

The final festival

event for 2014 is

something quite

different! An intimate

conversation between

good friends, award

To his credit he is also winning author Katie a dedicated supporter of Ffordd, debut novelist Jo the charity Childline and Thomas and local favourite, BBC broadcaster Lucy Owen.

His warm reception from the audience was confirmed by the long queue of people wanting their own signed copy of the book.

All proceeds from festival events are donated to leukemia and lymphoma research and The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales.

Details of all events can be found on www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available online via the Festival Website or TicketlineUK or from David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) High St., Cowbridge or Nicklebys' Book Shop, Pound Field, Llanwit Major.

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Chris & Michelle, owners of twenty 12 commented:

"Having worked in the Vale with loyal customers, we feel it would be a nice gesture to offer this chance to a deserving home. We felt that The GEM readers would be the perfect people to nominate someone they know!"

All you have to do is email [gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk) telling us in no more than 200 words why you think your nomination deserves the help.

Normal competition rules apply. Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Closing date: 13th November 2014



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# LOCAL CARE HOME CHEF'S AWARD FOR FINE DINING

A CHEF who introduced candlelit dinners with soft music and good wine at a care home, has won a top national award.

Since becoming head chef at Shire Hall Care Home in Overstone Court, Cardiff, Gareth Matthews has introduced various innovations, as well as impressing residents and colleagues alike with his culinary skills.

Now his passion and talent has been acknowledged at the annual Wales Care Awards, run by Care Forum Wales, where he picked up the

prestigious gold honour in the Catering in Care category, sponsored by Harlech Food Services.

The event at Cardiff City Hall, sponsored by Barclays Bank, was hosted by Vale-based TV newsreader Lucy Owen.

Gareth (37) lives in Barry, and went along to the glittering prizegiving evening at Cardiff's City Hall on Friday to collect his accolade with wife, Gemma, by his side.

He said: "It is still sinking in really. It was such a surprise to get the gold. I was nominated a few years

ago and got a bronze award so it feels really nice to have done even better. It was a fantastic evening and there were so many awards. We were towards the end so the nerves were really building by then."

"But it was good food and it was nice to have someone cook for me for a change, too!"

Gareth shared the top honour with a colleague from the Hallmark Group who run the Shire Hall, Claire Wilkins, so the pair were delighted to collect the joint award together.

He said: "It was nice to share it with Claire and it feels good to get a bit of a pat on the back every now and again. I've had a few awards from within the company before, but this one is all impartial and covers the whole of Wales so it is really nice to be recognized."

After completing his training in Cardiff, Gareth worked at numerous hotels in Britain and Spain but with three young children wanted a change from the long unsocial hours.

Since joining Hallmark six years ago Gareth has won the company's own top catering award three times and describes the Shire Hall, which has 98 rooms, as being like a "very nice, small hotel".

Gareth was put forward for the award by Shire Hall's manager Karen Grapes, who said that among the changes he had introduced was a choice of cooked or continental breakfasts and selection of pancakes.

He said: "Obviously, some residents cannot go out to restaurants and so I decided to create the same kind of scenario here, and the cinema is converted into a restaurant. The residents and their relatives who can join them do appreciate it."

When Gareth is not creating classy culinary experiences at work, he spends his time with his three children and also supporting his favourite rugby team, the Blues in Cardiff.

Maria Krefet, the Chair of Care Forum Wales, said there had been a record number of nominations and the standard was extremely high.

"This awards ceremony is our opportunity to pay tribute and to celebrate the talent and commitment that is improving the quality of life for thousands and thousands of people throughout Wales. We take our hats off to them."



Gareth Matthews with his award.

## BBC to screen results of film training scheme

THE Pencoed-based film production company, It's My Shout, has produced a series of nine short films for BBC2 Wales and S4C, and they started airing this week.

It marks the latest step forward for the company, which started life as an offshoot from the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) when Roger Burnell decided to use the summer holidays to give young people in Bridgend county borough the chance to work and act in short films.

Over the years, the project has grown, and the BYT is now part of It's My Shout, while that summer film project has grown to include a film training scheme that is providing workers for the burgeoning Welsh film industry.

Over the years, films made by other county boroughs and colleges were included in the package, and major strides were

taken four or five years ago when the BBC became more involved, and recognised the value of the project as a training ground for actors and technicians.

This year, nine films – three in Welsh and six in English – were unveiled at a glossy evening at the Wales Millennium Centre, and the first, *The Homing Bird* was broadcast at 11.15pm last Tuesday (November 4) on BBC2 Wales, but is still available on iPlayer.

The increasing involvement of the BBC has made for much stronger scripts which require pretty intense acting. The downside, perhaps, is that there aren't as many parts for really young actors as in earlier years, but anyone who takes the trouble to watch or tape the films will catch some very promising young talent.

Roger Burnell, the managing director of It's My Shout, said: "I'm delighted that so many people have responded to what we are doing – both the industry

and communities.

"It's really important to develop our own talent now that more film production facilities are moving to Wales."

*BBC2 Wales will be showing the English films on the following dates, and the first, Like/Unlike, a sharp satire on social media, was shot on location in Barry.*

*Like/Unlike – November 11. Orson-Welles Complex – November 18.*

*Mountain View – November 25. Hitched – December 2. Moving On – December 9.*

*A documentary on the making of the films will be shown on December 16.*

*The Welsh language films, entitled Bara Menyn, Jiw Jiws, and Plu Oen will be shown on S4C over three nights, November 17/18/19.*

*The film Moving On was shot in Cardiff and features Porthcawl actor Joe Wiltshire Smith in a supporting role.*

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# SKILLS OLYMPICS SQUAD IN TRAINING AT RHOOSE AIRPORT



Candidates at ICAT with Leighton Marson (centre).



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**COMPETITORS** in the aircraft engineering rounds of the prestigious WorldSkills UK were at Cardiff and Vale College for expert training ahead of this month's finals.

Two sets of candidates came to the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) at Cardiff Airport. They are competing in the mechanical and avionics finals of WorldSkills UK; often referred to as the 'Skills Olympics', some winners this year could go on to compete in the global WorldSkills finals in São Paulo next year.

Training at ICAT was organised by lead aeronautical engineering lecturer Leighton Marson and engineering training provider semta.

Lecturer Les Ball undertook training for the mechanical competition in ICAT's aircraft workshop and Leighton provided avionics practice in the avionics lab during the two-day coaching session.

WorldSkills competitors from a range of organisations took part, including the RAF, Fleet Air Arm, QinetiQ and Jaguar Land Rover.

Also present during the training was Level 2 aircraft engineering ICAT student Martha Ormerod, who is 24 and lives in Llantwit Major, explained, "It has been really nice to meet these different people – people who are in the WorldSkills competition and people who are interested in the same field as me."

### Fibromyalgia group

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group will be on November 11 between 11am and 1pm.

Contact group leader Gaynor Davies on 01446 733315, for more information.

Aero wants home to reduce stress levels

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for animals at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

**AERO** is a nine-year-old Staffy cross. She is a sweet and affectionate girl, but she is getting very stressed in kennels.



Because of this, she is not currently mixing with other dogs, but we feel when her stress levels are lower in a home, she will start to relax and will start mixing with dogs again.

She will need an experienced owner who can work alongside our trainers and take advice on how to calm Aero and start introducing her to dogs once settled into a home environment.

She can live with children over the age of 14 – Aero will make a lovely companion for someone who is around to keep her company during the day!

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# GROUP PRESSES FOR CHILDREN'S SWINGS AT GARDEN SUBURB



RESIDENTS have set up a group to campaign for the provision of a set of swings for the increasing number of children in the Garden Suburb housing area.

Vice-chair Rachael Williams, for the 'Friends of the Garden Suburb' group explained: "There is a lack of facilities for children in the area, and there is an overwhelming demand from the local children and young families for some form of leisure facilities."

"It is important for neighbourhood children to be able to play together safely, and also for parents to meet and get to know each other in a time where the feeling of 'community' is sadly being lost."

"For too long there have been no facilities for children and the nearest parks of Porthkerry and Romilly Park can be quite inaccessible, especially when having to push a pram. There are also safety concerns about young children having to walk through the woods to gain access to other playgrounds."

Chairperson Vicky Roberts stated: "There were originally tennis courts next to Marine Drive but these were sadly built on in the early 1980s.

"Both a paper and Facebook petitions were set up, and despite negotiations with the parks department of the Vale Council, they have refused to further the groundwork for a site, even though there are many suitable sites in the Garden Suburb. The area we require is only 9 metres

square for an infant and child swing.

"What is even more frustrating is that we have funding for the payment of the swings from the Welsh Town and Country Planning Trust, but the council will not assist further in finding a suitable donor site in the area to erect the swings. We did initially have support from the local councillors but that was withdrawn when some residents dismissed the idea for fear of attracting troublemakers.

"If the council still fail to assist us with our aim, then all we can do is continue to lobby them, with the aid of other organisations, to help our cause in finding a piece of land to install the swings."



*Kevin Moore talks to Jane Hutt about his work.*

## Artist's display in aid of MIND

THE opening of local photographer Kevin Moore's exhibition at Barry Town Station Travellers' Gallery, in aid of the MIND charity, was attended by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

The exhibition will run until Friday, November 7 (7am – 12.30pm) and showcases pictures of local places of interest from across the Vale and Cardiff. All proceeds go to MIND.

## Dinas bazaar

THERE'S a 2014 Christmas Bazaar at Bethel House, Dinas Powys (part of the Hebron Hall complex) on Saturday November 22 from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Crafters are invited to book a table (£5 per table) – these need to be booked by Monday November 17. Contact Sue or Julie on 02920 513 162.

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With windows and doors, as in many areas of life, technology moves on quickly. Just five years ago doors and windows were installed that today would not achieve a C rating. In fact, a window or door installed five years ago could be around 30 per cent less efficient than one installed today.



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- A smaller carbon footprint.
- A more comfortable home. Energy-efficient glazing reduces heat loss through windows and means fewer draughts and cold spots.
- Peace and quiet. As well as keeping the heat in, energy efficient windows insulate your home against outside noise.
- Reduced condensation. Energy-efficient glazing reduces condensation build-up on the inside of windows.

# Out and About with The GEM

## Gyllenhall's *Nightcrawler* one of the films of the year

SINCE making a dent with 2001's *Donnie Darko*, Jake Gyllenhall has built up an impressive resumé of work, the likes of *Brokeback Mountain*, *Zodiac* and *Source Code*, among others, highlighting the actor's ability to choose work wisely.

His latest film, *Nightcrawler*, sees him play Lou Bloom, a man seeking a purpose, who thinks he finds it when he comes across a man filming the aftermath of a car crash. Going into this world is Lou, a man who we learn early on isn't afraid of getting his hands dirty and who seems to be striving for a way to make his mark in society. He's something of a fantasist, but with a darkness and danger lurking not far from the surface.

The character is sharply written and brought to vivid life by Jake Gyllenhall, who doesn't just deliver a performance, but who inhabits the character so fully that you are completely taken in by him.

Having lost 20 pounds to play him, and with the hollowed cheekbones and darkened eyes dominating his features, it would be easy to chalk this up to just method acting, but Gyllenhall's turn is so much more than that.

Holding the story squarely on his shoulders, with nary a scene without him, Gyllenhall propels the film, granting Bloom so much depth that his lack



by GARETH JAMIESON  
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

what he could be capable of.

Dan Gilroy has penned the somewhat generic likes of *Real Steel* and *The Bourne Legacy*, which makes *Nightcrawler* all that more surprising and impressive, as the usual tropes are avoided in a screenplay that slowly ramps up tension, threatening to boil over at any point. Its bars are aimed with precision, but delivered so that the audience are allowed to make their own minds up over the validity and moral debate of Bloom's chosen profession.

While the film bears the influence of Martin Scorsese's sparse, character-driven films of yesteryear (Lou could be mistaken for *The King Of Comedy*'s Rupert Pupkin in his mannered delivery), Gilroy also paints Bloom as a product of the times, something made real by the society in which we live.

It also carries some lighter touches, the satire and black comedy bleeding into the edges, and while Bloom could easily be played as an eager fool, the writing and performance mean he's never to be taken lightly.

In his directorial debut, Gilroy delivers an assured and focused effort, the film sparingly shot, the clarity and directness of the screenplay parlayed into his directorial style. Late-night Los Angeles will always draw comparisons with Michael Mann, and while the film shares his visual hallmarks, as well as those of Nicolas Winding Refn's *Drive*, it doesn't lessen the impact in the slightest.

*Nightcrawler* is one of those, sadly now, rare films that comes out of nowhere and dazzles you with its brilliance. Its convergence of incredible performances, sharp writing and impressive direction makes it one of the finest films of the year, one that will certainly stay with you afterwards.

**VERDICT** – A standout effort, Dan Gilroy's directorial debut draws a stunning lead performance from Jake Gyllenhall that makes *Nightcrawler* live long in the memory. Gilroy's economic, powerful script packs a punch, creating darkly comic thriller showcasing what may be Gyllenhall's finest turn yet. Must see.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The King of Comedy* (1982), *Drive* (2011).

**Book sale**  
COWBRIDGE library book sale is now on!

Fiction, non-fiction, and children's books.

### Valeways walks

ON Sunday, November 9 at 10am, Llanddunwyd/Around Welsh St Donats, starting at the roadside, Welsh St Donats.

Also on November 9 at 2pm, coastal path to nature reserve starting at Fontygary Leisure Park.

On Tuesday, November 11 at 1.30pm, views of the coast circular starting at Penarth cliff top car park.

On Wednesday, November 12, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre at 10.30am.

On Wednesday, November 19 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, November 26 at 10.30am, the coffee

## What's On - In brief

shop strollers meet again at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre.

### St Hilary memories

ON Tuesday,

November 4

villagers

are invited to enjoy tea and cakes in the village hall between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

However, there is a catch! We want to gather villagers' memories of living in the village as well as share what we have already discovered.

What better way to spend the afternoon, gossiping about the past and sharing photos of interest – we would like to scan any photos or documents to enrich the conversations. And if you have any documents that you think might be of interest bring them along.

If you are new to the

village, please come

along if you just want to find out.

### Remembrance concert

LYNDSAY ELLIS of

The Vale Funeral Service and John Lewis of JPL

Sound/The Barry

Music Shop are

presenting a free

Remembrance

Concert on Thursday,

November 6 at the Vale Funeral Service

Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite the Mount Sorrel Hotel).

Concert commences at 7pm.

Presenter for the evening – Mr Dean Caldwell; celebrant Father Ben Andrews.

### Autumn lunches

ALL Saints' Church,

Park Road, Barry is

offering good

company and food at

their autumn lunches in

the church hall (12pm

to 1.30pm) on four

successive Thursdays,

from November 6 to

November 27 inclusive.

Lunch will include

soup, crusty bread,

home-made puddings

and tea or coffee for £5 a head, including a free raffle. Everyone is welcome.

JO

### Library information

THERE will be a 'drop-in' session on the Vale Council's plans at Rhoose Library on Friday, November 7 from 3.30pm-7pm. Senior Library staff will be there.

### St Hilary Remembrance

AT St Hilary Church on Sunday, November 7 at 6.30pm a service of commemoration and remembrance to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The service will consist of poems, music and other readings.

It is intended to be for the whole village and not just the regular congregation and so it is hoped that as many as possible will be there.

### Labour surgery

LABOUR Vale and Barry town councillors for Casteland Ward,

Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnle will hold their monthly advice

surgery this Saturday, November 8 in the Drop In Centre, Casteland

Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry from 10.30am until 12pm. No appointment necessary.

If you need advice but can't attend, call Coun Elmore on 01446 450007, or 07867 506116.

### Plaid advice

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns with Plaid Cymru

councillors Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan William, Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges at The Community Room, the County Library, King's Square, Barry from 11am until 12 midday on Saturday, November 8. No appointments are necessary.

## Rear Admiral's book signing

FORMER Rear Admiral Chris Parry CBE is in Penarth on November 14 to talk about his recently-published book, *Super Highway: Sea Power in the 21st Century*.

In the book, Parry describes how the coming decades will witness a 'scramble' for the seas, making them a key arena for both cooperation and competition, with the potential for conflict in the slightest.

*Nightcrawler* is one of those, sadly now, rare films that comes out of nowhere and dazzles you with its brilliance. Its convergence of incredible performances, sharp writing and impressive direction makes it one of the finest films of the year, one that will certainly stay with you afterwards.

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SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The King of Comedy* (1982), *Drive* (2011).



Our GEM Facebook winner

for October 30, 2014 is:

**JANINE CARRAN**

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

**Congratulations, Janine!**

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Sunday November 16th 2014 10.30-3.30  
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# The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



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**ANDREW RT DAVIES AM**

Supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal



Do you have an issue you would like to raise with Andrew? If so, please call him on 01446 775030.

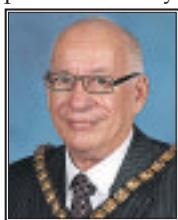
You can also write to him at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

[www.AndrewRTDavies.co.uk](http://www.AndrewRTDavies.co.uk)  
email: AndrewRT.Davies@wales.gov.uk

**1914**  
WWI CENTENARY  
**1918**



On behalf of The Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Mayor, Councillor Howard Hamilton, wishes the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal every success and is pleased to support this worthy cause.



Ar ran Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y mae'r Maer, y Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton am ddymuno pob llwyddiant i Apel Y Pabi'r Lleng Brydeinig Frenhinol ac yn falch o gefnogi'r achos teilwng hwn.

## 'Extraordinary' museum commemorates First World War centenary

To commemorate the centenary of World War One, it was decided that the RAF and civilian staff of MoD St Athan would undertake a project that was personal to them.

The project needed to be achievable, accessible and inclusive for everyone on the station, so it was decided to create a small museum. This would provide a means for personnel and their families to share their history and family experiences and losses surrounding World War One.

A spokeswoman said: "The project started in a modest way, but it wasn't long before it grew legs and evolved into something quite extraordinary. What started with one room quickly extended to two, and in a short space of time extended to the

whole church. "The project began early in the spring during which time MoD St Athan was fortunate enough to have a number of keen work experience students, Nicola Casling, Rhiannon Thomas and Ellie Brown who set about outlining the various elements of the museums contents.

"Nicola Casling, who was on an extended

placement, spent time ensuring that the project progressed in the way that had been agreed and she also did much of the practical work to ensure the success of the project.

"Each of the various sections across the station were given different elements of the war to cover as a project, ranging from; joining up, the home front, medical,

engineering, aviation, animals at war, weapons, shot at dawn, and chaplaincy at war.

"In addition, there are many personal accounts and family histories that personnel have kindly agreed to share.

"The museum officially opened on August 4 following the Station's Act of Commemoration for the beginning of World War One.

"The commemoration service was well attended by both military and civilian personnel.

"It was led by the chaplaincy team, with a statement read by the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls.

Following the Lord's Prayer, a candle was lit, a blessing said, and the hymn 'Make me a channel of your peace' sung to conclude the service.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



ABOVE: AC Saunderson and Wg Cdr Balls open the museum.

## Wartime museum to open on Remembrance Sunday

THE Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway Station will be open on Remembrance Sunday from 12.15pm until 4pm.

The volunteer-run museum, which is rated as Barry's second best attraction on Trip Advisor, seeks to educate visitors about the part that Barry and the rest of the Vale played in all of Britain's

conflicts.

Based on the version at the Imperial War Museum, the Great War trench proves popular with visitors and is the only one in the Vale.

The museum also opens on Wednesday afternoons throughout the winter, and volunteers are keen to hear from local schools if they would like to visit.

One of the key priorities for the Barry at War group, who run the museum, is to improve the offering for schools throughout

this winter.

Barry at War will also be supporting the Pontypridd Festival of Remembrance, by providing Great War uniforms for Cadets and Staff of Barry's Air Training Corps Squadron.

You can find out more about the museum at the Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup> or by emailing Ade Pitman at [littledevon@ntlworld.com](mailto:littledevon@ntlworld.com). AP



**JANE HUTT AM**  
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**Welsh Conservatives**  
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**David Melding AM**



If David can be of assistance please write to National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA or by phone or email.  
Email: [david.melding@wales.gov.uk](mailto:david.melding@wales.gov.uk)  
Tel: 02920 898732

**Ceidwadwyr Cymreig**

**Welsh Conservatives**

VALE OF GLAMORGAN CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION  
wish the  
**Royal British Legion** every success with the Poppy Appeal

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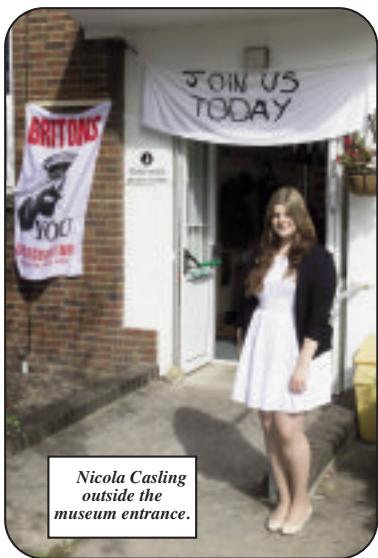
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**1914  
WWI CENTENARY  
1918**

# The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Nicola Casling outside the museum entrance.

## Poignant reminder of the young heroes who did not return



Inside the museum.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16  
It seemed only fitting that AC Sanderson, age 17 yrs,

the youngest student at No 4 School of Technical Training (4SoTT) was asked to open the museum alongside the Commanding Officer. This acted as a poignant reminder to every one of the ages of the young men who were going off to war, many of whom did not return."

The museum has become a focal point and a continuing reminder to all of the sacrifices made between 1914-1918.

Many personnel across the Station have visited along with other members of local history groups and schools.

The museum will be open to the public by prior arrangement on Thursdays 2pm-4pm or Wednesdays 6pm-8pm until December 18. Additional bookings can be made through the media communications office on 01446 797118.



Some of the exhibits inside the church.



Wg Cdr Balls and AC Sanderson light candles to remember the fallen.

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**The Mayor of Barry  
Councillor Jeff Evans**  
Y Maer Y Cymhordd Jeff Evans

on behalf of the  
Barry Town Council  
asks you to support  
Remembrance Day  
*Wear your Poppy with Pride*

Cyngor Tref y Barri  
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**Councillor M.W. Butcher**  
CORNELLY WARD

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that we remember all of those  
we have loved and lost.

And to give thanks to  
the British Legion,  
who supported many  
families over the years.

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**1914  
WW1 CENTENARY  
1918**

# The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



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## Councillor Reg D Jenkins Pontycymmer Ward



I wish the British Legion every success with their collections.

We have got off to a good start with our concert in the Garw Centre.

Thank you to all my constituents for attending.

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## LOCAL COMPANY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED...



**LEFT:**  
Pizza Pronto in Penarth had a novel way of marking the period of Remembrance this year, as members of the public were able to purchase a poppy and staple it to the outside of their premises.

The popular eatery will also be donating all profits from 11am to 11pm on November 11 to Royal British Legion, giving diners even more of an excuse to enjoy their wonderful food!

## Rhoose holds Remembrance Day service and a parade

**T**HIS Remembrance Day is special, as it is the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

The Rhoose Remembrance Day Parade and Service will take place on Sunday, November 9.

The service, conducted by Rev Melanie Prince and including other denominations, will be held at the Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road, immediately following the laying of the wreath at 10.55am.

Local organisations and individuals are encouraged to support the parade and service and they are welcome

to bear their standards with pride. Servicemen and retired servicemen are particularly welcome and, as always, will have seats reserved at the front of the hall.

The parade will muster at 10.30am at the bottom off Wesley Avenue and march off promptly at 10.40am.

Those who do not wish to join the parade can go straight to the Community Hall.

Light refreshments, courtesy of the WI (Rhoose branch), will be available at the end of the service.

Coun Jeffrey James

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## Vale observes silence for Armistice Day

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council is continuing its support for the Royal British Legion by holding a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate Armistice Day, on Monday, November 11.

A short service, along with a two-minute silence, will take place on the Civic Office Forecourt, Barry, in front of the Merchant Seamen Memorial, beginning at 10.45am.

The mayor, along with political leaders and representatives of local organisations, will lay wreaths to commemorate the fallen.

The ceremony is open to all and members of the public are encouraged to attend and pay their respects. The start and end of the silence will be marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

### Remembrance Day poem

As the wind blows though the poppy leaves  
And a quiet breeze blows through the trees  
We remember the men who went to war, who  
packed up their cases and walked through their  
doors.

They left their homes and families  
Too, and the numbers that returned were only few;  
They fought with their enemy until death was so  
near and a lot of them died with hearts full of fear.  
They had laid down their lives that we may have  
peace and live our lives in a Golden Fleece.  
So we must never forget the days of war and the  
men that died to change the law.

We must think of the past as part of our lives, and  
Remembrance Day and those that died.

Russell Spencer Downe

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# Commemorating the centenary of the First World War WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

**A**S this year's particularly significant Remembrance Sunday approaches – significant because it marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War One – the experiences of a typical Vale town such as Cowbridge offer a chance to put a human face on the unimaginable fatality statistics that are a tragic feature of the 'Great War'.

Last week, the GEM published the first part of an article detailing the brief lives of the men who are recorded on the town's Cenotaph. The primary source material for this is a historical book, *The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian* by JOSÉ RAWLINS, published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown & Sons of Cowbridge. The book was the result of extensive and painstaking research over five years by the author.

David Howell, the Cowbridge Poppy Appeal organiser, has included sections of the book in the course of compiling the article.

This account of ordinary men, who were transported around the world as the battles raged, and who came to meet their end in foreign fields, was replicated around south Wales, and provides a deeply sobering backdrop to the forthcoming Remembrance ceremonies.

The GEM hopes that telling the story of just a few of the men who fought and died, will inspire residents in the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs to support their local Poppy Appeal. The Royal British Legion was formed in the aftermath of World War One, but its work continues today, helping men and women who made the same sacrifice as those remembered in this centenary year of the Great War.

## Thomas Albert John Edwards

Thomas was born in Ystradgwyn in late 1891. At the time of the 1891 census his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Edwards, were living with their parents Thomas and Mary Sant at Talyfyn Castle. Thomas's father Samuel worked for his father-in-law, who was a farmer.

By 1901, father Samuel was a farmer himself and Tom lived at the family farm at Bryndafod in Welsh St Donats. In the 1911 census the family was living at Clawdd-Coch, Pendoylan but now Samuel describes himself as an 'estate labourer' and Tom was working as a haulier. Samuel died in early 1917, just before his son.

No records are available of Tom's military service. He was killed in action on April 9, 1917, aged 25, during the 1st Battle of the Scarpe which opened the major offensive launched from a system of tunnels beneath the town of Arras. He has no known grave but his name is recorded on the Arras Memorial.

## Owen Evans

Born in Welsh St. Donats in 1892, he was the fourth son of seven (plus one daughter) of the Rev William Edgar Evans, minister of Carmel Congregational Church in Bonvilston, and wife Mary Evans. They lived at The Manse in Llanblethian.

Owen worked for John Hopkins & Sons, builders and monumental masons in Cowbridge, and, aged 18, is described as a sculptor in the 1911 Census.

Owen was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Cowbridge with Aubrey Lloyd Morgan. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour of October 23, 1914.

The Royal Sussex Regiment 7th Battalion, was part of the 12th Eastern Division 36th Brigade. Owen landed at Boulogne in June 1915 and was probably involved in the Battle of Loos at the end of

September 1915. He died in the 1st Battle of the Somme on July 7, 1916, aged 24, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery.

Two years later Edgar and Mary Evans suffered the tragic loss of Owen's younger brother Lance Corporal Emrys Morgan Evans.

Apparently, as Emrys had neither lived or worked in Cowbridge, he was not included with Owen on the town memorial.

## David Fitzgerald

Born in Llanblethian in mid-1892, David was the second son of John Fitzgerald who was born in Cork, Ireland. John worked as a railway platenlayer in 1901 and lived near the Farmers Arms in Aberthin with his Welsh wife Elizabeth and their four children.

By 1911 the family had moved to 5 Aubrey Terrace and David, still living at home, was employed as a mason. The family home was still in Aubrey Terrace in 1918 when David died.

David may have considered himself Irish for he served with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers from November 1914 and was stationed at Cork. He transferred to the Royal Welsh Regiment in April 1916 so that he could be with his elder brother William.

He also seems to have served in the 2/3rd Cheshire Regiment for a short period before being transferred back to the Welsh Regiment. Confusingly, the Cowbridge war memorial places him in the South Wales Borderers even though his headstone shows him to have been in the Royal Welsh Regiment.

The German spring offensive of 1918 was fought in Picardy over the old battlefield of the Somme, but petered out before reaching the major and vital railway town of Amiens. David was killed on the first day of the Battle of Lys on April 9, 1918, aged 25, and his grave is in an extension to the communal cemetery at Beuvry, a town about 3km east of Bethune.

## William James

William was born in Cowbridge in 1892. He was the only son of John James of Llyswoyn and his wife Harriet

from Bath, Somerset; William had an older sister, Maud.

The family was living close to the Edmondes Arms in East Village, Cowbridge, at the time of the 1901 census and had moved to Glebe House, Llanblethian, by the time of the 1911 census; William and Maud were still living with their parents in 1911.

In both the 1901 and 1911 census returns father John describes his employment as haycutter, William being similarly employed in 1911.

William enlisted for three years in the Welsh Regiment (2nd Welch) at Cowbridge on November 6, 1914. He left for France on February 17, 1915. The 2nd Welch was involved in an attack on Auberch Ridge, which opened on May 9, 1915.

The German defenders were securely entrenched. Artillery bombardment failed to reach its targets and machine-gun fire was deadly and accurate. Within two hours many of the soldiers had been cut down or drowned in the marsh and stream in the area.

William was killed in action on May 9, 1915, aged 23. He has no known grave and his name is engraved on the Welch Regiment panel on the Le Touret Memorial. Over 13,000 names are listed on the memorial of men who died before September 25, 1915.

## Albert and Arthur Gibbs

Born in Cowbridge in mid 1896 and mid 1899 respectively, they were the fourth and sixth of nine sons and two daughters of Joseph and Florence Gibbs.

Joseph, who was from Birmingham, was a printer for the Glamorgan Gazette and had moved to Cowbridge in 1895 to set up a printing business with his assistant David Brown at 43, High Street.

In 1901, the Gibbs family was living at 23, Eastgate, Joseph being recorded in the census as a printer, stationer and shopkeeper. In 1911, Albert, aged 14, was working in the family business as a printer's compositor, along with his older siblings Ethel, Walter and Frederick;

12-year-old Arthur was still at school.

Albert enlisted in Bridgend, joining the 16th (Cardiff City) Service Division which was raised in November 1914. Alongside 11th SWB the 'Cardiff Pals' fought their way into Mametz wood.

They lost so many men that after the action the battalion was transferred away from the Somme battlefield to Flanders. Albert was killed in action near Ypres on September 14, 1916. His grave is in Essex Farm Cemetery, only two rows away from William Lane, who was killed in action less than a month earlier.

Arthur – probably after brother Albert's death – enlisted at Cardiff into 9th Loyall North Lancashire Regiment. The regiment was part of five extremely unfortunate divisions which faced a series of German spring offensives, in 1918 and suffered such heavy losses that the survivors were ordered back to England on June 30, and the battalion was disbanded shortly afterwards.

In July a brief report in the Glamorgan Gazette stated: "After being missing for a considerable time news has been received that Pte Arthur Gibbs is a prisoner of war in Germany."

The Gazette listed six Cowbridge men, all living in Eastgate, as prisoners: J Oakley and his brother A Oakley, brothers Fred and Arthur Gibbs, E Lloyd and Jack Conway.

Sadly, Arthur died in Germany on October 24, 1918. The cause of his death is not known and his grave is in Worms (Hochheim Hill cemetery). Frederick returned home and settled in Maesteg.

Albert and Arthur's brother Harry also survived.

## Ralph Goulden

Ralph Goulden is not listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as he died a civilian but was as much a casualty of the Great War as all the other men on the memorial.

He was born in Bridgend in late 1893 and was the third son (of a family of six sons and three daughters) of Henry and Jane



Cowbridge cricketers in uniform – J Foulkes, Frank Dunn\*, Charlie Morgan, Albert Gibbs\*, Harold Moynan\*, I Pell, BS Bird, Lyn Llewellyn, Jack Dunn\*. (\* – denotes 'killed in action').

Goulden. Henry ran a baker's and

confectionery shop at 17 High Street in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns. At the time of the 1911 census, Ralph was a postman.

Elder brother Richard had a very distinguished war-time career being awarded both the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a Military Medal.

Younger brother Edgar served in the Royal Navy and older sister Alice served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

The Glamorgan Gazette in October 1918 carried the report

"Edgar Goulden RNR was handed a token of appreciation from the Mayor of Cowbridge to convey to his brother, Ralph Goulden, who lies in a precarious state in his home suffering severely from gas poisoning."

Ralph died in Bettws, Ammanford on June 26, 1919 aged 25.

Ralph's name is on the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour.

## Benjamin Hayward and Sidney Abraham

Extensive research for this article was carried out by José Rawlins and is included in her book *The Great War: Memorials in Cowbridge and Llanblethian* by José Rawlins and published by the Cowbridge Record Society and printed by Keith Brown & Sons Ltd in 2008. The publication is available via the Cowbridge History Society.

I must congratulate José on her book, it is a very informative publication. A number of passages from the book have been included in this work and others have been paraphrased. I am grateful for the opportunity to quote her excellent text.

I consider myself fortunate that records and sources not available to José when she carried out her research, plus much improved computing power, were available to me at this later date and, probably made my task much easier.

As a couple of names appear on both the Cowbridge and Llanblethian memorials I took the approach of combining the two. I have also produced the list in straightforward alphabetical order and tended to ignore rank, which seems somewhat inappropriate some 100 years on.

DAVID HOWELL

## Writer's acknowledgements

March 1917.

In January 1915, Sidney joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and crossed to France in December that year.

Sidney's division went into action in the Battle of the Somme in July. There were six days of murderous fighting before they captured Mametz Wood, which resulted in huge casualties. The division was then withdrawn from Picardy to Flanders.

Sidney was killed in action on June 24, 1917, aged 25, before the start of the third Battle of Ypres during a German barrage on trenches in front of the Yser Canal. His grave is in the Bard Cottage cemetery near Boezinge, in the northern sector of the Ypres salient.

All 11 Hayward siblings served their country in the Great War. Eight of the brothers enlisted in the army, Benjamin served in the Royal Navy, and the two sisters Beatrice and Bertha served in France with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 29)

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# BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE SINCE 1902!

## Camaraderie and great memories are part of being a choir member!

To be celebrating 112 years of unbroken music-making is an achievement of which Barry Male Voice Choir is justifiably very proud.

To have maintained an active membership against the competition afforded by the arrival of modern entertainments and technology is no mean feat.

One of the main reasons for this longevity is the sheer pleasure choristers derive from being part of a group of like minded men and being able to produce a musical sound which warms the soul and gives enormous pleasure to listeners.

Another very important aspect of Barry Male Voice Choir's operations is that almost all the concerts we perform are in support of a charity fundraiser. The pleasure of being able to assist a charity, while at the same doing something which we thoroughly enjoy, is immeasurable.

The choir also enjoys a healthy social aspect with the majority of concerts being followed by a gathering in a local hostelry for some 'refreshment' and inevitably a few more songs.

At least once each year, the choir will travel away over a long-

weekend period with our wives/partners. During the last few years we have visited Stirling, Cockermouth, Beauvais (France), Gouda (Netherlands) and have recently returned from a great weekend in Falmouth.

Next year the choir is off to Rheinfelden in Germany to cement the links with Barry's twin town.

Closer to home we have performed at weddings, and venues as diverse as The

Millennium Centre in Cardiff and Barry Rugby Club.

To ensure the continuation of this fine tradition of music-making and social enjoyment, we are keen to recruit as many new members as we can.

There is no requirement to have the ability to read music or to speak Welsh, and there will be no terrifying 'voice test' to have to pass.

The range of music we perform is huge, and I can guarantee that there will be something in our repertoire that you will know.

I can also guarantee the warmest of welcomes to any new members. I have been privileged to have been the choir chairman for the last four years, a position which has given me great pleasure.

What would give me even more pleasure is to see the choir's numbers swelled by the arrival of some new members.

So why not come and join us at the first of our 'Taster' sessions in the West End Club, Barry on November 10 for a sing along, buffet and a pint. See you there!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers, Barry Town Council, the Vale Council and VCVS for their support.

## President's invitation!

THE choir's president Gordon Mudford is issuing an invitation to potential choristers:

As president of Barry Male Voice Choir, I extend a warm invitation to the men of Barry and the Vale to join us. The choir has been in existence for the last 112 years.

Throughout this period, the choir has served the cultural interests of the town and the Vale with distinction.

It has also provided tens of thousands of pounds to various charitable organisations both locally and nationally.

The choir also initiated the twinning of Barry with the German town of Rheinfelden in 1967. This is still enjoyed today. The choir is visiting Rheinfelden again next year (2015).

We are currently looking for new members to ensure the continuity of the above activities. Please come along to our recruiting event on 10th November



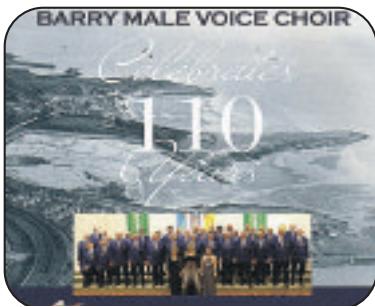
The choir president Gordon Mudford.  
in the West End Club  
Barry at 7.30pm.

The youngest choir member is Alex Harries (30) who joined the choir when he moved to the town.

Alex is an actor whose recent roles include a policeman in the Hinterland/Y Gwyll series broadcast on BBC/ S4C, respectively.

He explained: "I've been a member of BMVC for over a year and it's the best decision I've made since moving to Barry."

"Singing gives me an opportunity to express myself in a way that my job as an actor doesn't allow. Every rehearsal I'm able to attend and every concert I perform fills my soul with joy."



A 2012 CD celebrated 110 years of Barry Male Voice Choir.



# BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

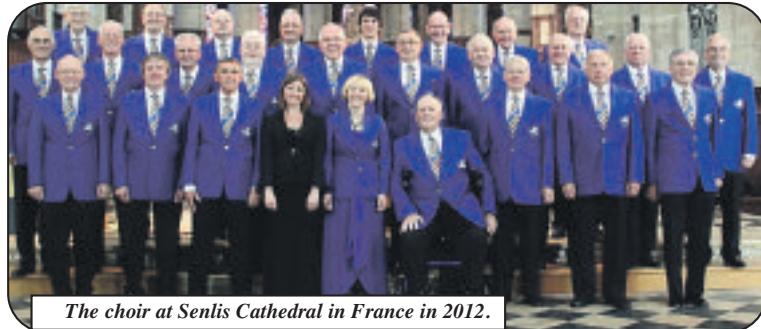
## HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE SINCE 1902!



Are you a shower crooner, a budding Pavarotti, or Mister Karaoke?  
**BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR MAKES WAVES WITH A FUN CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS**



ABOVE: As you can see, Barry Male Voice Choir has been having some fun in publicising its recruitment campaign.



The choir at Senlis Cathedral in France in 2012.



Dorothy getting the best out of the tenor section at a recent choir rehearsal.

**B**ARRY Male Voice Choir has launched an engaging and humorous recruitment campaign that has caught the attention of the general public.

It's even been boosted by the support of top Welsh celebrities such as Michael Sheen, Roy Noble and Derek Brockway.

The choir has produced a series of invitations and posters publicising their special taster session for potential new members to be held in the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, (CF62 6QY) on November 10 at 7.30pm.

The chairman Gareth Roberts explained: "You don't have to be a trained singer – if you can sing in tune, you can sing in the choir."

"We are keen to encourage more men from Barry, and the rest of the Vale, to join the choir and everyone will be made really welcome at the taster evening.

"We launched the campaign on Facebook and Twitter and the response has been so encouraging it's taken us by surprise.

"The actor Michael Sheen re-tweeted our post to his 200,000 followers. It has also had support from weatherman Derek Brockway, a native of Barry, BBC presenter Sian Williams and a number of Welsh sports personalities."

So what exactly is a taster evening in 'choir terms'?

Gareth said: "It is a gentle and convivial introduction to male voice singing. It is for men who are interested in singing, but who

haven't sung before or who are nervous about joining a choir.

"Guests will not be expected to sing on their own. The evening will focus on singing.

"If people want to join after the taster session, a series of practices for new choristers has been arranged.

"These will be held from November 17 once week for 10 weeks on Mondays between 6.30 and 7.30pm at Trinity Hall, Trinity St, Barry, (CF62 7EH).

"After 10 weeks, you can join the main choir. It is hoped that new choristers will be able to attend at least one rehearsal a week out of two.

"Anyone unable to attend the taster session will still be welcomed at practices during these introductory 10 weeks."

For more information, see the choir website at [www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk](http://www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk) or telephone 07925878669.

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## Elaine's £300 smoking saving



ABOVE: Elaine Nelsen with the Welsh rugby stars.

OCTOBER 28 marked the final day of 'Stoptober' – the 28 day stop smoking challenge – which has seen thousands of smokers across Wales attempt to stop smoking.

Stop Smoking Wales has been offering advice and support, and there were nine 'local heroes' from throughout Wales who have been documenting their quit attempt throughout October.

The campaign has been supported by the Welsh Rugby Union who surprised the local heroes with tickets to the autumn international opener, Wales v Australia which will be held at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on

November 8. George North, Taulupe Faletau and Justin Tipuric presented a pair of tickets to each local hero at the Welsh Rugby squad's training ground at the Vale Resort.

Elaine Nelsen, 64, from Bridgend was among the local heroes who picked up their reward.

Elaine, who has saved £333 and has not smoked 1,026 cigarettes since taking on the Stoptober challenge, said: "I'm feeling great and people keep telling me they can notice a difference already in my complexion and skin colour.

"I'm proud to have got to day 28 and I can't wait until next Stoptober when I'll be able to say I've been smoke free for a year – onwards and upwards!"

## Farmers' charity walk proves to be a great success

FARMERS' Union of Wales members and friends covered all 871 miles of the Wales Coast Path during a huge sponsored walk to raise funds for children's hospice charities, Ty Hafan and Ty Gobaith.

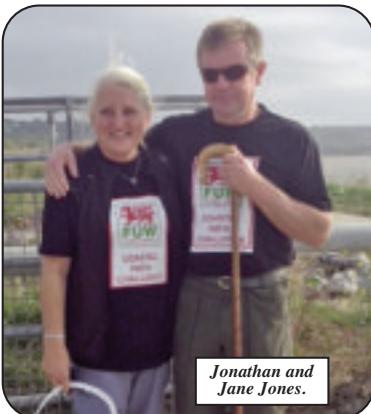
The challenging event took place in September, when teams of union members, staff and friends embarked on various walks along the whole length of the Wales Coast Path to boost funds for both charities, which have been chosen for FUW president Emry Jones' 2014 charity appeal.

"Our Glamorgan members really backed us all the way with the challenge and, between us, we managed to walk the entire length of Glamorgan's coastal line, 124 miles in total," said Rachel Saunders, county executive officer for FUW Glamorgan.

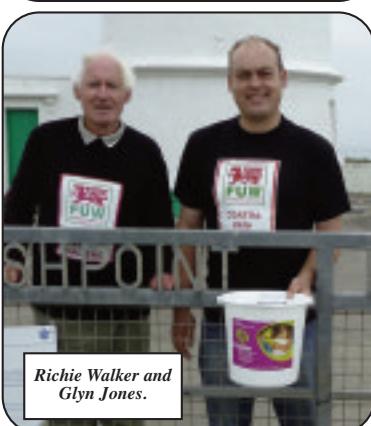
"We had been praying for dry weather in the run up to the challenge and it turned out to be a beautiful day, making the walk even more enjoyable."

"Our county chairman Richard Walker literally walked the extra mile for us, completing 23 miles on the day and collecting money from generous farmers attending a ploughing event on a local farm adjacent to the coastal path, as well as donations from charitable members of the public enjoying the walk."

"I would like to thank everyone who took part in the challenge, donated towards the cause and generally helped out with lifts on the day, as you have helped FUW Glamorgan raise over £700 for Ty Hafan and Ty Gobaith."



Jonathan and Jane Jones.



Richie Walker and Glyn Jones.

## Rangers rush to beat the winter!

PORTHKERRY Park rangers, in partnership with Porthkerry Wildlife Group, Natural Resources Wales, and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, are hurrying to create two new wildflower areas before the weather gets too cold.

"Two small areas of meadow have been cut, scarified, raked and then sown with a range of wildflower seeds. The seeds have either been donated or collected from other areas of the

park or other wildflower sites nearby," said ranger Mel Stewart.

"The rangers and volunteers have been out collecting seeds all summer long. We can't wait until next summer when we hope to see the meadow a mass of beautiful flowers that will help attract bees and butterflies throughout the summer."

Anyone interested in joining Porthkerry Wildlife group, or help our future conservation projects, should contact the ranger service on 01446 733589, or email [Porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:Porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

## Local choir sings at WMC

THE St Donat's Atlantic Chorale appeared on the Glanga stage recently.

A sizeable audience gathered to hear an hour long programme which showcased the range of the choir's repertoire.

Passers-by were drawn in by the rousing strains of 'Pastime with good company' written by King Henry the Eighth and stayed to enjoy a musical journey including Vaughan Williams, Cardiff's own Ivor Novello, to finish with Queen and Carly Simon.

The next time the choir will be in action is on December 7 in the 'Glass Room' at St Donat's Arts Centre when the rarely performed (in English) Brahms' 'Marienleider' forms the first part of the concert, while the second part will be a mix of traditional carols, along with other seasonal music and readings.

LE

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# Rikishakers in King Square for Noah's Ark

IMAGES by  
KIM LACNY

ON Halloween, October 31, the Rikishakers demonstrated their keep fit routines in King Square, Barry – with a charitable purpose in mind.

The event was in aid of Noah's Ark Appeal and the aim is to raise £10,000 to go towards two machines in the children's hospital.

A spokeswoman for the group said: "It was a brilliant night and we want to thank Jordon and Craig who arranged it all at short notice."



## Vigil outside hospital

MEMBERS of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children held a two hour vigil during visiting hours (6pm – 8pm) to remember with sorrow the passing of the Abortion Act on October 27, 1967.

A spokesman said: "The vigil was held outside a hospital because the NHS pays for 98 per cent of all abortions. It was especially encouraging to welcome Father Fuse from Cardiff to the vigil.

"Also present were Paul Botto,

former development officer for Wales and his wife Diane, Greg Stewart and Ceri McCarthy, chairman of the Wales region, Tony Kells, Rita Costello, Kotailin Naray and Ailsa Lloyd from Barry, Diane Jones and Debbie Pitt from Penarth and Janet and Mike Thomas from Dinas Powys.

"The weather was fine and mild, the cars passing by showed appreciation by toots and waves and our candles added both colour and a sombre note of remembrance, together with our banners which made our message clear."

## Orange Wallet Scheme offers disabled people vital support

ON Friday, October 31, South Wales Police hosted an event to launch the 'Orange Wallet Scheme' aimed to improve the experiences of disabled people travelling on public transport.

Staff from Arriva Cymru and First Bus Cymru met representatives from the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People and other local organisations to share experiences and discuss ways to improve travel for those with special access requirements.

The wallet immediately

establishes that the holder has a disability and the leaflet inside is designed to communicate the assistance they require.

Sergeant Angela Bennett said: "These events are hugely important for networking among vulnerable groups, to raise awareness of any particular issues that we as officers need to tackle. This is also an opportunity to work with people to raise their confidence and trust in the police so they can report incidents know they will be taken seriously."

Nathan Foy, engagement officer for Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "Like audio announcements, the orange wallet could give some blind and partially sighted people more confidence to travel on public transport, knowing that drivers and staff are trained to recognise the card and understand the needs of those who carry one".

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# PUPILS LAUNCH 'GIRL POWER' AT BRYNT EG COMPREHENSIVE



Coun Mike Gregory takes a look at the new equipment.

**BRYNT EG Comprehensive School has officially launched its new female-friendly fitness suite and 'Girl Power' programme, which has been influenced and co-ordinated by female pupils, who are part of the school's 'Girls' Network Group' and Sport Wales Dynamix project.**

Over the last 10 months, six secondary schools including Brynteg, have worked with BCBC's Active Young People Department and Sport Wales to set up Girls' Network Groups to combat a decrease in sports participation among girls in school years six to nine, it stated.

A county-wide survey of pupils in that age bracket had found that

self-esteem issues, PE kits, and not always being able to stay within friendship groups were some of the barriers that were putting girls off taking part in sport.

The 'Girl Power' programme was set up to empower young girls to give their opinions and make changes that will encourage them and future pupils to take part in more physical activity. Other schools already involved include Maesteg, Cynffig and Portcawl, with Bryntirion and Pencoed recently joining too.

In addition to the new facility, which features new strength and conditioning equipment provided with help from the Welsh Rugby Union, the changes made at Brynteg also include bespoke changing areas with a door to the shower area and full length mirrors. The new colour scheme of the equipment and decor

was even chosen by the girls, with paint being kindly donated by Dulux.

To launch the programme and declare the facilities officially open, Brynteg year-11 pupils Samantha Currell and Emma Hobby led a presentation to an audience of VIP guests which included the Mayor of Bridgend county borough – Coun Gary Thomas, BCBC's chief executive Darren Mepham, cabinet members and councillors, as well as associated partnerships.

A video explaining the Girls' Network and what they have achieved was also shown, with speeches by Brynteg's headteacher David Jenkins, cabinet member for children and young people Coun Huw David, and Sport Wales' executive vice chair Adele Baumgardt, before guests took a peek at the re-vamped



Left to right: Coun Mike Gregory, Mayor of Bridgend CB Coun Gary Thomas, Mayor's consort Kay Jenkins, Coun Huw David, Coun Charles Smith, Coun Cherie Jones and Coun Hayley Townsend with members of Brynteg's Girls' Network.



Left to right: Emma Hobby and Samantha Currell present at the 'Girl Power' launch.

facilities.

Members of the Girls' Network from year-11 at Brynteg spoke at the launch on what they have achieved individually from being involved with the project.

Emma Hobby said: "I have had experience of working in a team, incorporating different ideas into a project and putting opinions across."

Emily Williams added: "It's given me more confidence in expressing my views on girls' physical activity and working with others to share ideas and make changes."

Gary Thomas commented: "I have enjoyed being able to help girls build up their confidence in sports, and help to boost their fitness levels."



Brynteg's Gymnasium after refurbishment.



Left to right: Girls' Network members Brogan Thomas, Emma Hobby and Emily Williams.

## Hallowe'en fun at Cornelius school



Spooks and spokes at Cornelius!

ONE hundred and fifty pupils – around half of Cornelius Primary school – got involved in a special Hallowe'en 'Bling your Bike' event, which encouraged them to travel to school on their bikes and scooters, after covering them with Hallowe'en decorations.

"The amazing

response meant that nearly every corner and corridor at the school was crammed with bikes and scooters – all complete with horrific handlebars and ghoulish gears," said BCBC's Sustrans Schools Officer, Roger Dutton. "The response from the pupils, parents and staff was quite overwhelming. I normally expect around 20 to 30 pupils to cycle or scooter for such an event, but half of the school took part at Cornelius!"

"The school has just achieved its Sustrans Bronze School Mark for its efforts in promoting active travel and I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who made an effort."

In the last year, Cornelius Primary School's commitment to active travel has seen a 76 per cent increase in the numbers of pupils who regularly cycle to school; while walking is up 22 per cent, 62 per cent more pupils are going by scooter and regular car use has dropped by 11 per cent.

## Poppy Appeal gala concert

TICKETS are said to be selling fast for a Poppy Appeal gala concert taking place this Saturday, November 8 at the Sony Theatre in Bridgend.

Hosted by the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, and organised by Coun David White, Major Wayne Morgan and local resident Delyth Owen, the unique event from 7pm will commemorate the centenary of World War One with various talented artists. They include the Bridgend

Male Voice Choir, Bridgend Castle Players, Pencoed Silver Band, 1092 Sqn Air Cadets, solo classical singers and more. Swansea-born actor Richard Mylan, who is currently starring in the BBC 1 drama 'Waterloo Road' as deputy Head Simon Lowsey, will also be on stage reading a letter from the trenches.

Tickets £7.50, are on sale at various outlets in Bridgend town centre, including Candy Shack, Ella Riley Sweet Shop, Beth Daniel Hairdresser and Top's Associates Hairdresser. All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion.

Mayor Gary Thomas said: "It gives me great pleasure to be involved with this event which will provide a fitting tribute to our war heroes as part of our local community's efforts to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War."

Coun David White added: "What a wonderful way to express public support for members of the Armed Forces, both past and present, that we have here in Bridgend county borough. I would encourage as many members of the public as possible to join us for this spectacular show."

## Primary pupils in cross country finals

CHILDREN at the Primary Schools Cross Country South Central finals, at Leckwith fields, Cardiff, have taken part in cross country running events organised by BCBC's active young people's department, in association with Welsh Athletics.

A total of 150 year-five and six pupils from feeder primary schools participated in two events held at Brynteg and Maesteg Comprehensive Schools, with the top schools from each event going through to the regional finals.

The four primary schools who will now be limbering up to compete in the Primary Schools Cross Country South Central finals, at Leckwith fields, Cardiff, have taken part in cross country running events organised by BCBC's active young people's department, in association with Welsh Athletics.

"The school has just achieved its Sustrans Bronze School Mark for its efforts in promoting active travel and I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who made an effort."

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## Bridgend PACT

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Bryntirion Community Centre, Thursday, November 13 at 7pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, Wednesday, November 26 at 6.30pm.



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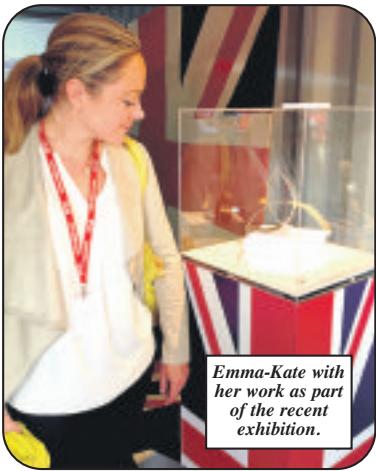
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## Cowbridge jeweller represents Wales in UKTI's 'Great Design Week Mexico'

**L**OCALE designer jeweller, Emma-Kate Francis, was invited to represent the Wales' creative industries sector with the Welsh Government and UKTI on a creative industries knowledge transfer mission to Mexico recently.

UKTI asked Emma-Kate to exhibit her work as part of the 'British Great Design Week Container' exhibition, and at the launch party at the British Ambassador's residence, alongside Lawrence Llewelyn Bowen.

Emma-Kate explained: "It was an

amazing opportunity to partake in Mexico's Design Week and represent Wales! It was fabulous to meet other creatives, too. Mexico has a thriving hub of design talent and the trip really inspired me. There might be some exciting collaborations in the future!"

The contact details for Emma-Kate are: Atelier Emma-Kate Francis, 1st Floor (above High Society), 85 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7AA; tel: 01446 771656; email: [info@emmakatefrancis.com](mailto:info@emmakatefrancis.com); Facebook/Twitter/Pinterest/LinkedIn [emmakatefrancis.com](http://emmakatefrancis.com).

Emma-Kate explained: "It was an



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It's LBD time at Samantha B!

IT'S that time of year again! For most of us, the run-up to Christmas is an exciting time: lunches, parties and family get togethers, the last thing to worry about is what you're going to wear.

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OLSEN has made a welcome return to the area and the fantastic Mona jeans are flying out – we have the final delivery this week, so if you've missed them call in.

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## In Business Update

## Five easy tips to boost confidence

**C**ONFIDENCE is something we were all born with – life can sometimes dent it, leaving us feeling overwhelmed and unable to do the things we want to do.

Here are some simple but powerful tips to help develop more confidence.

1. Use your body to create the feelings of confidence. Stand or sit straight, shoulders back with head up. This alters body chemistry and inspires confidence.

2. Prepare for success; visualise how you would like a particular situation to be. Spend a few minutes daily picturing yourself in these positive scenarios, being confident. Pay special attention to the minor details, too.

3. Let go. Confident people are happy when they know they have given it their all. Ensure you prepare, practice, visualise.

4. Accept things can go wrong. Confident people move on.

5: Consider when you have been confident. Notice your thoughts and feelings and what was said and done. From here, create your own template for confidence.

So which tip will you

try first and when? For more information about confidence building, contact Sue on 07795 964 066; or email: [cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com)



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# Aspire2Own

## in the Vale of Glamorgan



### About the Aspire2Own scheme...

#### What is Aspire2Own?

Aspire2Own was created by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and our partner Housing Associations in recognition that first time buyers can often find it difficult to afford a home of their own. The scheme enables people to register their interest in low cost home ownership properties, either now or in the next few years.

Aspire2Own provides a helping hand onto the property ladder for people who are financially stable and able to raise a mortgage, but unable to get onto the housing ladder without assistance. This may be because of the amount of mortgage or deposit required to buy on the open market.

#### What are low cost home ownership properties?

The low cost home ownership properties available through Aspire2Own are developed in partnership between the Council and Registered Social Landlords.

Most low cost home ownership properties operate on a 'shared equity' basis, which offers first time buyers the opportunity to purchase a property at a lower than market value. An equity share is retained by a Registered Social Landlord at no extra cost to the buyer. This reduces the amount of mortgage required to purchase the property, making it more affordable. When finances allow, the purchaser can staircase at any time up to full ownership.

Depending on where the developments are located, there will be a minimum and maximum income level set. This is done to ensure that applicants can afford the mortgage required, but also to restrict the scheme to households who are unable to buy on the open market.

#### Where are these properties available?

Properties are most often available on new housing developments. This could be on housing sites built by market house builders or by a Housing Association.

In the last couple of years Aspire2Own has had low cost home ownership properties, both flats and houses, available in Penarth, St Mary Church, Cowbridge and Barry.

Next year there will be low cost home ownership properties available on the following developments:

- Penarth Heights, Penarth
- The Hedgerows, Barry
- St Canna's Green (Ffwrn Goch), Llangan
- Channel Heights, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point

There are more developments planned for the future in locations across the Vale. If there are housing developments planned in your local area, it is worth contacting Aspire2Own for more information on the low cost home ownership properties available.

#### Will properties be available in the rural Vale?

On average rural house prices are 40% higher than urban areas, and whilst household earnings are also often higher, many still find it difficult to afford properties on the open market.

In response to this, the Council aims to secure low cost home ownership properties on housing developments in the rural Vale. Priority for these properties is given to local people through the development of local sales policies. This enables local people to remain in the rural communities they grew up in, work in and contribute to.

#### Who can register with Aspire2Own?

Anyone can apply to Aspire2Own, as this is simply a register of people interested in low cost home ownership.

By joining Aspire2Own you are not obliged to apply for any properties which become available and there is no limit on how long you can remain on the Aspire2Own register.

When low cost home ownership properties are available there are eligibility criteria which apply. For example applicants need to:

- Live or work in the Vale, or have a valid local connection
- Be able to raise a mortgage, but unable to afford to buy on the open market.

Currently, the scheme is only available to first time buyers; however we will consider the eligibility criteria on a site-by-site basis, so people who have owned a property before are still able to register with Aspire2Own.

### Contact Aspire2Own

**Phone...** (01446) 709476

**Online...** [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/aspire2own](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/aspire2own)

**Email...** [housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

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#### How do I register to Aspire2Own?

To register you need to fill in the Aspire2Own form. The form is available online or as a paper copy. If you need any further information or assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch.

#### What's next once I have registered?

We will inform you when properties become available in the area you are interested in. You can then choose whether to apply to purchase a property.

If you do wish to be considered for an available property we will send you further information and an application pack.

The information collected by Aspire2Own, about where people want to live, the size of property they would like and their income will also help the Council to future plan for new low cost home ownership properties in the Vale of Glamorgan.





(CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 19)

### Arthur Wynne Jones

He was born in Llanfyllin in Montgomeryshire and may have moved to south Wales to work in the Glamorganshire coalfield. He enlisted in Pontypridd where 1/5th Welch Regiment had its headquarters.

Arthur was probably involved in building coastal defences in readiness for an anticipated German invasion in East Anglia. His connection with Cowbridge is yet to be discovered.

Along with the Dunn brothers Arthur subsequently left on the SS Huntsgreen, and with eight other grossly overloaded trooships spent three sweltering weeks to steam across the Mediterranean Sea for an assault landing at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli peninsula.

The battalion was ordered to take Scimitar Hill. This was the same ill-fated attack that claimed the lives of Jack and Frank Dunn of Llanblethian, and Arthur also lost his life there.

Arthur Wynne Jones and the two Dunn brothers have no known graves but are commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the end of the Gallipoli peninsula.

### William Easton Lane

William Eaton Lane was born in 1893 in Cowbridge. He was the eldest of five sons (and one daughter) of Sidney and Mary Lane, who lived at 6, Westgate Street, Cowbridge. In 1911 William was working as a railway clerk.

He enlisted at Newport joining the South Wales Borderers, trained at Colwyn Bay and arrived in France on

# Commemorating the centenary of the First World War WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



active service on December 4, 1915. He was involved in action at the Somme the following July.

The Welsh Division, of which the SWB was part, suffered enormous casualties at Mametz Wood and was withdrawn from the front line and transferred to Flanders.

Welsh troops were not involved in any major offensive near Ypres, but normal trench duty was always dangerous and William was killed in action on August 23, 1916 aged 23. His grave is in Essex Farm cemetery north of Ypres.

### Charles Lewis

Charles was born in Cowbridge in 1898. He was the only son of Alfred and Elizabeth Lewis and the family lived at Croft Street (then known as Taff Street) in 1901.

By 1911 the family had moved to Aberthin Road and Charles was older brother to Florence and Esther. Father Alfred was a plasterer.

Charles enlisted at Bridgend, joining the Royal Field Artillery but later transferred to the 'Tanks' which was originally the Heavy Section of the Machine Gun Corps before being renamed the Tank Corps in June 1916. These new caterpillar tracked vehicles first came into action in September 1916.

Charles Lewis died of wounds on July 23, 1916, aged only 17. His grave is in the British cemetery at Roye, south east of Amiens.

### Frederick Charles Lord

Fred was born at Brooke, a Norfolk village about five miles south of Norwich on July 10, 1891. He was the second of three sons of Henry John

and Maria Lord who in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns were living in Norfolk.

It appears that prior to enlisting in the army at Cardiff, probably in 1914, Fred was Police Constable 634 in the Glamorgan Constabulary and was based in Cowbridge.

He was following in his father's footsteps as father Henry was a Superintendent of Police in 1911.

His army record shows he was sent to France on October 5, 1914, but other information indicates his division landed at Zeebrugge on October 7, suggesting he was in 1st Battalion. They saw action at Ypres with the loss of all but four officers and 200 men.

Fred died of wounds on September 14, 1916, and is buried in an extension to Corbie Communal Cemetery about 15km east of Amiens.

The Glamorgan Gazette wrote about him on September 29, 1916: "When stationed at Cowbridge he won the respect of everyone, his attention to duty, his unassuming disposition and genial personality made for him a host of friends."

His name appears on the Roll of Honour of the Glamorgan Constabulary.

### Morris James Marsden

Morris was born in Silian, Cardiganshire, in 1895. He was the youngest of three sons of John and Mary Ann Marsden. There were also six daughters and the family lived in Rhydybannau, a large farm south of Cribyn in both 1901 and 1911.

There is no known record of his living in Cowbridge but a member of the Marsden family has confirmed that before his enlistment, he had been

employed at one of the three banks then flourishing in Cowbridge; the London provincial (now Barclays), the Metropolitan Bank of England & Wales (HSBC) or the National Provincial (Nat West), so in all probability he did live in the town.

Little is also known of his military career. He was a member of the Glamorgan Yeomanry, and embarked for France in March 1917.

He was killed in action during the Battle of the Menin Road on September 25, 1917, aged 22, but has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Tyne Cot memorial north east of Ypres.

### Arthur Stuart Miles

Arthur was born in Cowbridge in 1896.

He was the third son of four (and one daughter) of Frederick Augustus and Wilmet Agnes Miles. In 1901 the family lived at either 4 or 6 High Street, where Arthur's father had a grocery shop.

Father Frederick died in 1905 but Mrs Miles continued managing the business and was still doing so in 1915. Arthur was assisting her in the business at the time of the 1911 census.

Only just 18 when war was declared, Arthur must have volunteered for the army almost immediately; he enlisted at Newport, choosing to join 1st Monmouthshire, maybe because uniforms, rifles and training were acquired more quickly by enlisting in a territorial battalion than in one of Kitchener's New Army battalions.

Arthur was sent to France in June 1915. He may have been a member of

a Pioneer battalion, assigned responsibility for trench maintenance, drainage, road building and light railway construction.

Pioneers were trained soldiers and in addition to this work were used in both attack and defence. Arthur was killed in action near the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13, 1915, aged 19.

His grave is in the Arras Road cemetery in the village of Roelincourt between Lens and Lille.

### David Miles

David was the eldest of the 10 children of David and Angelina Miles. He was born in 1897 in Cadoxton, Barry.

After leaving school at 14, he worked at Ysguborgoch Farm, St Andrews Major, moving a year later with the farmer, Mr Jones, to Hollybush Farm on Stalling Down.

Early in 1913 the Miles family moved from Eastbrook, Dinas Powis, where they lived at the time of the 1911 census, to live at Rock House and then to The Malthouse, Llanblethian, from where David enlisted on September 4, 1914. He was three months short of his 17th birthday, still only a boy, whose prize possessions were his Raleigh bicycle and a mouth organ.

David went to France on January 11, 1915, and when he was killed in action on May 9, 1915, was two years under the age for military service overseas.

He died at Richebourg, St Vaast, probably in the same failed attack on Auber's ridge in which William James died. David has no known grave. His name is on Le Touret Memorial.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

## FREE Hearing Tests

Throughout November at Scott Wroe Hearing Penarth



**Scott Wroe Hearing** is a leading, independent hearing practice, that has grown from recommendations and referrals. We spend time with our customers to ensure that they are fitted with the right hearing aid for their personal needs and all of our devices come with a comprehensive aftercare service.

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"I would thoroughly recommend Scott to anyone thinking of buying a hearing aid. He is extremely kind, patient and efficient. Thank you Scott and Laura for your incredible service."

"I can't thank Scott enough for his excellent, kind and caring service. Without his professional help and advice my world would be a silent one."

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"I cannot speak highly enough of the help, attention and personal care Scott has given me and I would highly recommend him to all who have a hearing loss."

"I would recommend Scott Wroe Hearing Centre to anyone who is missing quality of life as a result of hearing loss."

"I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."

# PRESIDENT'S BALL IS A STUNNING SUCCESS FOR PROSTATE CYMRU



**PHOTOGRAPHS by  
RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)  
[www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com](http://www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com)  
01656 662324**

A RECENT event to raise funds for Prostate Cymru – the Cowbridge-based charity – raised a stunning £40,000.

It was about a year ago when David Brace, OBE, became president of the charity, and to mark the end of his first year in office, he organised the inaugural 'Presidents Ball' at The Tower Hotel, Briton Ferry, to raise funds for the treatment of prostate cancer in Wales.

It was attended by Warren Gatland and his wife Trudi, Eddie Butler (who compered the raffle) and Jayne James (the former BBC Wales broadcaster) and her husband Rob.

David Brace told The GEM: "We had a fantastic demand for the event, with 240 buying tickets. We could have sold the event twice over, and will aim to do so next year!"

The evening started at 7.30pm and included an auction, raffle and music provided by local band 'Souled Out'.

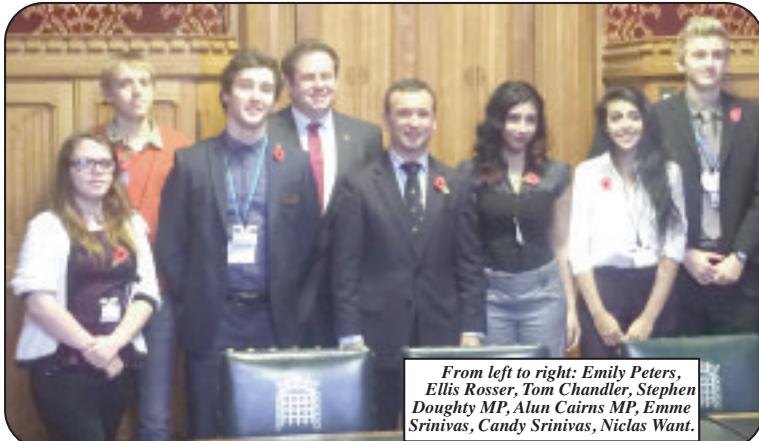
In total of £40,000 was made during the auction and donations.

There were some extremely generous donations and bids made, and auctioned lots included a luxury holiday in Marbella, a VIP day's racing at Chepstow and a box at the next Wales v England match, among others.

David Brace added: "We are already taking bookings for next year's President's Ball, and anyone interested should contact me or my wife Dawn on 01656 742313".



# MP meets Vale youth mayor and the cabinet



From left to right: Emily Peters, Ellis Rosser, Tom Chandler, Stephen Doughty MP, Alun Cairns MP, Emme Srinivas, Candy Srinivas, Niclas Want.

VALE MP Alun Cairns met the new Vale Youth Mayor Tom Chandler and his cabinet during a trip to Westminster recently.

The Vale youth cabinet visited Mr Cairns at the House of Commons for a tour of the parliamentary estate, and held a question and answer session with the group.

Mr Cairns said: "Having both been elected with 3,000 votes, Tom and Emily are an impressive example of how to get youngsters interested in politics. It was a real privilege to host the cabinet and show them the inner workings of Parliament."

## WHAT'S ON - In brief

### Holiday bookings

VALE of Glamorgan Association of National Trust is reminding members and volunteers that bookings for the May 2015 holiday need to be in by November 10.

Christmas lunch booking forms are also now due. The next talk on Wednesday, November 19 is by Dr Jonathan Hicks – 'Barry and The Great War' – 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington.

There will be an afternoon talk at Dyffryn about the Hidcote/Dyffryn connection at 2pm on Wednesday, December 3. New members welcome.

**Anti-war production**  
*OH What a Lovely War* is

Everyman Theatre's new production at Chapter Arts Centre from November 11 – 15.

Director Jackie Hurley said: "Unfortunately, we don't seem to have learnt much in the 100 years that have passed since the outbreak of World War One. War, and the destruction it brings, are still very much with us in the 21st century."

Curtain Up is at 7.30pm (matinee Saturday, November 15, 2.30pm).

Call 02920 304400 or visit [www.chapter.org](http://www.chapter.org) for tickets.

# World Games, Los Angeles is dream for local athletes



Welsh competitors are seeking help to be able to attend the World Games in Los Angeles.

SPECIAL Olympics Great Britain has just announced that Wales has seven athletes and two coaches selected to be part of the Special Olympics GB Team to attend the World Games in Los Angeles 2015.

They include James Savory

from Barry, Adrian Abbott from Llantwit, and coach Angela Frayling from Sully.

Chairman Jeff Savory of Special Olympics Wales said: "We have a big task ahead to help fund these athletes and coaches to attend this prestigious event, each athlete will have to find £2,500.

"If there is anyone interested

in sponsoring or arranging a fundraising event on our behalf, please contact us."

Jeff can be contacted on 0780 316 5581; and by email at the following address:

[jeff@specialolympicswales.co.uk](mailto:jeff@specialolympicswales.co.uk).  
Online donations can be made at Just Giving / Jeff Savory, by text writing: text JUVL91 £ To 70070."

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# Commemorating the centenary of the First World War WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



(CONTINUED  
FROM PAGE 29)

## Edward Miles

Ted Miles, born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 1896, was a cousin of David Miles, his mother being a sister of David Miles senior.

His mother died young and Ted, after some years living in a children's home, lived with his uncle, David Miles and his family in Dinas Powys changing his name from Brown to Miles. He worked as a chauffeur for a Dr Costello in Dinas Powys before enlisting in Carmarthen.

He was sent to France in December 1914 and served in Flanders. No information is available of his service in France until 1917.

The 3rd Battle of Ypres officially ended on November 10, 1917, after the capture of Passchendaele ridge, but the Ypres Salient continued to be hazardous and Edward Miles died of wounds on December 31, 1917, at one of three casualty clearing stations at Dozinghem. His grave is at Dozinghem Military cemetery.

## Aubrey Lloyd Morgan

Aubrey was born early in 1894 in Cowbridge. He was the oldest of two sons and two daughters of Thomas Morgan, a master mariner from Llandaff, Cardiff and his wife Emily Ann from Llanover. At the time of the 1901 census they lived at the Bridge, 5 High Street, and in 1911 at Ganthaw House, 1 High Street, Cowbridge.

By 1915 the family was living at Cusop at the junction of Love Lane and Broadway, having previously also lived at Greenfield.

Aubrey was one of the many thousands of young men who responded to Kitchener's call for volunteers to serve in the New Army, enlisting in the Royal Sussex Regiment Cowbridge with Owen Evans. Both men are listed in Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour on October 23, 1914.

The regiment trained in England until May 1915 and landed in Boulogne on June 1, 1915, going into action on September 30, north east of Loos. After initial success the Battle of Loos had resulted in small gains of territory but continued with heavy casualties.

Aubrey was one of those casualties and was killed in action on October 21, 1915, aged 21. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

## Richard Thomas Morgan

Richard, born in Penarth in September 1886, was the son of a railway signalman, also named Richard, from Llysworney, and his wife Mary from Llancaele.

By 1888 the family had moved to Cowbridge and in 1901 the parents, with seven children including Richard, were living at 10 Eastgate. The younger Richard was working as a railway clerk.

By 1911 he had left home and was still working on the railways and lodging in Barry. Later that year he emigrated to Australia.

On January 6, 1916, Richard enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland. His trade was noted as mechanic. Six months later he sailed for England, via Cape Town – where Richard overstayed his shore leave by six hours, which cost him a day's pay!

The ship reached Plymouth at the end of July, and he then spent four months training in England. Hopefully, he was able to be reunited with his family and friends in Cowbridge before he went to France in November 1916.

Throughout 1916, preparatory action had taken place south of Ypres in undermining the Messines' and Wytschaete ridges where 21 long mining galleries were driven from the British lines towards the ridges, ending in chambers which were filled with a million tons of highly explosive ammonal.

At 3.10am on June 7, 1917, 19 mines were detonated followed by intensive artillery bombardments. Richard was involved in a second wave attack and the ridges were captured.

He died on June 12, 1917, from

wounds he received in the action. His grave is in the Trois Arbres cemetery east of Baileul.

## Harold Otto William Moynan

Harold was the younger of the two sons of Dr Richard Moynan and his wife Emma and was born in Newport Mon in 1886.

Dr Moynan was the medical officer of health for the borough of Cowbridge and at some date between 1901 and 1911 moved from Llwyngwyn in Eastgate to Woodstock House in the High Street.

Harold and older brother Richard enlisted before October 1914. Harold joined the South Wales Borderers (Brecknockshire) territorial battalion, although it is unlikely he was serving with this battalion at the time of his death as the Brecknockshires spent almost the entire wartime years in India.

Harold was killed in action on July 31, 1917, aged 30, on the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, an offensive which would grind on for a further three months.

He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

## William David Owen

William is something of a mystery. Little has been discovered about him, especially any link with Cowbridge.

He was in the OTC (Officer Training Corps) and on October 17, 1917, the London Gazette announced his promotion from Cadet to Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Regiment. He appears to have held a temporary commission in the 38th (Welsh) Division, 114th Brigade.

The book *Carmarthen Pals: A History of 15th Battalion the Welsh Regiment* records the battalion in action in the vicinity of the Premont to Esnes Road, in northern France close to the Belgian border on October 9, 1918, and William died of his wounds on October 11, 1918.

Mysteriously, his grave is in the communal cemetery of St Germain-aumont-d'or, a village about eight miles north of Lyon, some 370 miles away. The inscription on his grave records him as being a member of the 15th battalion Welsh Regiment, but does not include his army number.

His army record has his widow's address in Southsea, Hants. An Ivy Keturah Hutchings lived at that address with her parents in 1911 and a marriage is recorded in Portsmouth in 1917 of a William David Owen and an Ivy K Hutchings. Unfortunately, there is no access to information which might help trace his origins.

His name appears on the Pontypridd memorial as well as that of Cowbridge; the criteria for inclusion suggests he must have had some connection with that area.

## Alexander Pate(s)

Alexander was born in 1887 in Aberdeen, the son of an Irish father, George Holden Pate. He was either the second or third of 12 children, as he was one of twins.

By 1891 he was living with father George and three elder brothers in Alphington near Tiverton in Devon. George married Emily Gitsham, who was some 30 years younger, in 1889 and the family moved to Cardiff around 1894/5.

Alexander was in the Welsh Regiment, and at the time of the 1911 census was stationed in the Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, Egypt. At the same time his twin brother, Archibald, was in the Royal Navy and was on board ship in China and the East Indies.

Alexander joined the Post Office as a postman in May 1913 in Cardiff. He appears to have been attached to the Barry office and an entry in the South Wales Echo on December 1, 1914, indicates he was a postman at Cowbridge.

Alexander, a bandsman as well as a soldier, was probably called up as a reservist and entered France on military service on August 27, 1914.

In late October the British Expeditionary Force was forced into

desperate defence against the Germans near Ypres. They suffered heavy losses when attacked on October 23, when Alexander was wounded, and he died of his wounds on October 26, 1914, aged 27 – just three days after his name was published in the Glamorgan Gazette Roll of Honour on October 23. His grave is located in Poperinge old cemetery which 10.5 km west of Ypres.

In addition to the Cowbridge memorial, Alexander's name appears on the Barry PO memorial, the Cardiff Post Office Roll of Honour, the Grangetown (Cardiff) memorial, the Grangetown Roll of Honour and the Scottish National War Memorial.

## James William Payne (recorded as Joshua Payne on the memorial)

James, the eldest son, of seven sons and one daughter, of William James and Francis May Payne, was born in 1893 in South Shields, County Durham, where father James was a housebuilder.

In the 1911 census James, only 18 years old at the time, is described as a 'pupil/teacher' at Cowbridge Grammar School. He, like Ronald Wall who died in 1915, had been an assistant master at Cowbridge Grammar School.

James enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, which was a territorial battalion, and which was mobilized on August 4, 1914, at Bishop Auckland as part of the 50th (Northumberland) Division 151st Brigade. They landed at Boulogne in April 1915 and suffered very heavy casualties in the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

50th Division was involved in the 1st Battle of the Scarpe. James was killed in action on April 14, 1917, aged 24, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Arras memorial.

## David Robert Spencer.

One of only two men commemorated on the Cowbridge memorial, who did not wear an army uniform. David was born in 1883 in Cowbridge, the youngest of three sons of Thomas and Margaret Spencer.

In 1891, Thomas was recorded as a brewer and innkeeper and the family was living at the Duke of Wellington.

Thomas died in 1894 and Margaret took over the running of 'the Duke' with eldest son Arthur and was still there in 1901. David had left home and was living in Neath and was employed in engineering.

David married Lauria Glaister Bradbury in 1912 in Cardiff. Lauria is recorded as living at Lake Road East, Roath Park, Cardiff.

David joined the Merchant Navy and was Second Engineer on the SS Portloe, registered at Cardiff. The year 1917 was the worst of the war for British merchant shipping losses due to enemy submarine attacks, and Portloe was torpedoed, west of Ireland, on April 20, 1917 and David died at sea, aged 39.

In addition to the Cowbridge Memorial, David's name is inscribed on the Tower Hill Memorial in London to the men of the merchant marine and fishing fleets.

## John Arthur Stockwood

Arthur Stockwood was born in Cowbridge in 1878. He was the eldest of five sons of John and Rachel Stockwood who in 1891 lived at Woodstock House in Cowbridge High Street.

Father, John Stockwood, was a solicitor and Arthur, after attending the grammar school, also qualified as a solicitor. Arthur married Beatrice Ethel Davies in Carmarthen in late 1905 and in 1910 was living next door to his parents at 81 High Street.

In the 1911 census he is shown as living in Park Street, Bridgend, and was in practice as a solicitor with his uncle S H Stockwood.

Despite his age, mid-thirties, and family responsibilities – Arthur was married and the father of three children – he enlisted in Cardiff, joining the Rifle Brigade, soon after Kitchener's appeal for volunteers.

He was rapidly promoted to corporal then sergeant and had applied for a

commission in the Welch Regiment at the time of his death.

By September 1916, Arthur had served in France for 14 months; but his luck was due to run out. On September 3, Arthur's division launched a successful attack and captured the ruined village of Guillermont, which had been one of the strongest fortified villages in the German line and a major British objective since the opening of the Somme offensive.

Arthur was killed in action on that day, aged 48, and has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Battle of the Somme Memorial at Thiepval.

## Thomas Frederick Hastings Torney

Tommy Torney was born early in 1898 and was the only son of Dr. Richard Hastings Torney and his wife Jessie, who in 1901 all lived at Sorrento in Cowbridge High Street. Father Hastings, who would be commissioned as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps early in 1917, was born in Ireland.

According to the Glamorgan Gazette of September 13, 1918, Tommy was commissioned on his 17th birthday and had been in France for two years when he died, which implies that he joined his battalion, aged 18, in September 1916, after it had been transferred from the Somme battlefield to Flanders for rest, refit and reinforcement with fresh drafts from south Wales.

Tommy was killed in action on September 3, 1918 aged 20. His name, like William Archer's is inscribed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. The report of his death in the Glamorgan Gazette was on the same page as that of William Burley.

## William Trew

Willie was born in early 1895, the eldest of four sons and two daughters of James Trew of St Athan, and his Llanblethian born wife Catherine. In the 1901 census, father James is recorded as an agricultural labourer and the family, including Willie, were living near The Mill in Llanblethian.

By 1911 they were living in Pretoria Cottage, Llanblethian, Willie being employed as a colliery labourer. The family had moved to Westgate, Cowbridge, before Willie's death and had another son serving in France to worry about, whilst a third had been discharged badly wounded.

Willie was living in Cowbridge when he enlisted in Cardiff and joined the Welch Regiment. He probably transferred to the 1st Leicesters during the February 1918 army reorganization and was serving with the machine-gun section when he was killed on July 21, 1918 aged 23. His grave is in the Nine Elms British cemetery near Poperinge, west of Ypres.

A report in the Glamorgan Gazette August 2, 1918 contains the following "He was in the machine gun section and while engaged in a hot fight was fatally struck. His CO, in a sympathetic letter, speaks of him as a splendid soldier, and states that just before he received his death blow, had accounted for a number of the enemy and silenced one of their machine guns."

## Ronald Sinclair Wall

Ronald was born in the second half of 1891 in Hampstead, Middlesex. His second name was registered as Shackell in the birth register, military records have it as Schockell but it is also recorded as St Clair and Sinclair.

The 1901 census shows him at the Llandow school where his grandmother, Emma Wall from Ipswich, Suffolk, was the school mistress. He was educated at Cowbridge Grammar school where he was also, for a short period, an assistant master. The 1911 census describes him as a schoolmaster student.

Ronald Wall enlisted in Cardiff so it is somewhat strange that he should have served with the Northumberland Fusiliers 'Tyneside Irish' battalion which mobilized in Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 9, 1914.

After basic training the battalion moved at the end of August 1915 to Salisbury Plain, where Ronald died,

aged 23, on October 15, 1915. The cause of his death is unknown but he probably died in the very large (1,200 beds) hutt military hospital at Sutton Veny, near Warminster, Wiltshire. His grave is in St John's churchyard in Sutton Veny.

## Herbert Dudley Williams

Herbert was born in Cowbridge towards the end of 1896. He was the only son of John and Morfydd Williams, who also had two daughters.

In 1901, the family of seven was living in 89 Eastgate. Father John Williams also owned the adjoining property, known as London House, where he had a thriving business as a draper, with workshops for tailoring and millinery.

The family was still resident in 89 Eastgate and the business continued in the 1911 census. Herbert was born in Cowbridge and attended the grammar school.

In 1914, at just 18, he enlisted in Bristol joining the 12th Glosters (Bristol) Service battalion. He landed in France towards the end of 1915.

Herbert Williams died of wounds on September 3, 1916, barely 20 years of age. His grave is in Dive-Cope British cemetery about 20kms north of Amiens.

## William H Williams

William probably died as a result of his war service on February 4, 1919, and his grave is in Llanblethian churchyard. It's so sad that we know so little of this young man who sacrificed his life.

The birth of a William Henry Williams was registered at Bridgend in 1899, as was the death of a William Williams, aged 19, during the same quarter of the year. William is known to have died. (Registration information is only publicly available for quarters).

In addition, a William Henry Williams, the only son plus five daughters, of Henry and Emily Williams, Factory Road, Llanblethian, is recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census returns, aged two and twelve respectively. The dates of his birth, his death and his burial at Llanblethian Church strongly suggest this is our man.

The service record for William H Williams gives no date information but shows service commencing in the Welsh Regiment with a transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps and his progression to Acting Sergeant.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour in Holy Cross church with no further details and no records were kept by the CWGC of soldiers who had left the army due to their injuries.

## William Willment

### (correctly recorded as Willmott by the CWGC)

William was born in Llantrithyd in 1888. He was the son and eldest child of Fred and Margaret Willmott who still lived in Llantrithyd at the time of the 1891 census.

By 1901, the family had moved to St Hilary and William had gained a younger brother and sister. William married Ethel May Firman Ward in St Saviour's Church in Paddington in late 1909.

In the marriage banns, he gives his residence as St Iltyd's Parish, Llantrithyd Major. In the 1911 census he is living at The Court, Llantrithyd Major, and he and his wife have a two-month-old daughter, Eleanor May Firman Willmott. He was working as a haulier.

William joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and was sent to France on January 11, 1915. The British Expeditionary Force, of which his regiment was part, suffered heavy casualties in the action at Aubers ridge during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in May 1915.

William's regiment was involved in an attack at Loos on September 25, 1915, and William was killed in action that day, probably in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. His grave is in St Mary's advanced dressing station cemetery near Haisnes.

# Pencoed RFC made to work for victory

**RIGHT:** Tom Cross surges for the tryline as Pencoed first XV were made to work hard for their win over Neath Athletic.

ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

**P E N C O E D** dominated for most of this Division 2 West Central match against Neath Athletic; however with a difficult gusting cross wind at Cwrt Herbert fields, they were unable to reach the heights of their previous week's performance in victory at Division One Beddau in the Swalec Plate.

The opening 20 minutes was all Pencoed, however despite creating several scoring chances it remained scoreless.

Sustained Pencoed pressure in the home 22 then got its reward, the pack driving the home side over their try line for No8 Gareth Prentice to get the touchdown.

Prentice, Dai Pearson and Glen Hiscocks were then prominent in a sweeping attack before full back Tom Cross gave his side prime position in the home 22 with a well judged kick.

Pencoed then had their second disallowed try of the half, but were not to be denied. Soon after scrum half Kyle Barrett finding hooker Ieuan Watkins stationed at the corner flag to expose the Athletic blindside cover and cross for a well worked try.

Unbeaten Pencoed will now take a well-earned break from match action throughout the November internationals, and will resume on December 6 at home to Resolven at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.



**ABOVE:** Man of the match for the first XV Gareth Prentice and **RIGHT:** Women of the match for the Phoenix, Nerys Lloyd and Hannah Whittingham.

Neath Athletic then got their opening try, capitalising on some loose Pencoed play, left wing Luke Lewis racing away from around 40 metres to score.

Pencoed were next on the scoreboard following good driving play from Watkins and Prentice, which saw the No 8 storm over from 20 metres out for his second try, Davies converting.

The home side to their credit finished the match well with late tries from openside flanker Ian Thomas and replacement Ryan Thomas, the final score 29-17.

Unbeaten Pencoed



will now take her team forward.

Pontyclun were looking to give Welsh international sevens squad wing Rafuke space and only a last ditch tackle from Phoenix full back Hannah Whittingham kept her out. Soon after however 'Rafa' was worked clear on the overlap, her pace doing the rest for the visitors' opening

try, Davies converting. The home side to their credit finished the match well with late tries from openside flanker Ian Thomas and replacement Ryan Thomas, the final score 29-17.

**PENCOED**  
**PHOENIX 3**  
**PONTYCLUN**  
**LADIES 29**

The final scoreline in this WRU National Premier League match was perhaps a little unkind to the home side.

Phoenix opened well in the breeze, prop forward PJ prominent with a number of carries setting up position in the visitors' 22. Good combined play from Charlotte Mundy and Nerys Lloyd took play to the visitors' line, with Lloyd just held up short.

Pontyclun returned to the attack and good passing out of contact brought their second try, and along with it Mullen and Stevens both patched up for the restart. Rafuke then got her second try before Phoenix conceded a soft score prior to the interval, failing to kill the ball and allowing the visitors a kick and chase try from 60 metres.

Phoenix started the second half well with good driving play from Hannah Brunsill and Natalie O'Shea, and further breaks from Mel Clay and Trickey should have brought scores.

Phoenix, despite the scoreline, were now

taking the game to their more experienced opponents and enjoying their best period of the match, and with Stevens in the clear the final pass was given forward.

Further Phoenix pressure saw Leanne Burnell held up over the line in the act of scoring, before Clay, O'Shea, Stevens and Burnell in turn all went close.

Phoenix were then dealt a killer blow when, after dominating the second half, the visitors, in their first visit during this period into the home 22, sealed matters with a try.

Phoenix were undaunted however, Leigh Francis, enjoying one of her best games, triggering off a 60-metre counter attack through several pairs of hands before Phoenix were denied a deserved consolation try at the corner flag on the final whistle by the well organised Pontyclun defence.

Phoenix can take heart from, in particular, their second half display, and overall probably their best performance against their near neighbours who included three Welsh internationals. Hannah Whittingham and Nerys Lloyd were chosen best Phoenix back and forward respectively by their opponents.

On Sunday it is anticipated both senior and junior Phoenix sides will travel to Whitland, Pembrokeshire.

TR



# PORTHCAWL YOUTH UNSEAT THE HIGH-FLYING TONNA TEAM

**PORTHCAWL** Youth travelled to the Neath Valley side Tonna, expecting a hard physical game and were not disappointed.

After receiving the ball from the kick-off, Porthcawl failed to clear their line and conceded an early penalty. However, the away side soon took the lead when good play from the backline saw Ross Jenkins score between the posts, converted by Jak Robbins.

Porthcawl kept up their pressure and soon were rewarded with a Will Robinson try, again converted by Robbins.

However, Tonna are not top of their league for nothing, and soon scored a converted try to finish the first half at 10 – 14.

From the re-start, Porthcawl's forwards began to dominate play and from a driving maul, Tom Mathews went over the line for a try. Although Tonna competed well, Porthcawl's defence held out and, turning defence into attack, they worked the ball to Jenkins, who scampered over the line to complete his brace.

It was fitting that the last try of the match was scored by Jak Robbins who, after receiving the ball on the half way line, out-paced the Tonna cover defence to score between the posts. He converted his own try, giving him a personal tally of 11 points and a team tally of 31 enabling the Seaweeds to finish this hard game as winners.

CW

## PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-8S MAESTEG CELTIC 5: PORTHCAWL 2

## TREORCHY 8: PORTHCAWL 2

**PORTHCAWL** under-8s learned the lesson of why rugby is a team game, with both Maesteg and Treorchy playing the team way, with skilled individuals working together.

They gave a passing lesson, putting players into space by passing without being tagged and hunting in packs, so whenever they were tagged, they had a player on their shoulder in space to take the ball at pace and score.

Porthcawl attacking runners were on form and made lots of ground despite the heavy pitch, but without those supporting runners, many of the attacks resulted in just coming up short, being tagged out before they could cross the line.

Top of the runners was Theo always going forward and scoring two-length-of-the-field tries, one in each game. He was awarded top try scorer, not only for his tries but for his passing and supporting runs. Also on the scoresheet were Dewi and Ryan, who both ran their hearts out and were able to beat the first few defenders, but the organised defensive line made it difficult.

On form again was Piers, who ran strongly all day in attack and defence and nearly finished off the move of the game with Dewi after a mazy run was tagged short of the line.

Another strong performance came from Dexter, who chased everything all day and put a number of try-saving tackles. Running him close were Ben and Joel who were very vocal in defence, being defensive champions who also ran well with the ball: keep it up, all of you.

Try scorers: Ryan; Theo 2; Dewi.

Clubman best effort – Dexter. Clubman making a difference to the team – Piers. Top try contributor – Theo. Top tagger – Lex, with 10.

RH

**PORTHCAWL** under-9s' game at Cowbridge was a rearranged fixture as yet another valley side struggle to get sufficient numbers at this level, while Cowbridge have numbers in abundance.

With the rain lashing down on our journey to Cowbridge, we were in determined spirit to not let anything spoil our fun today.

After a very good start, scoring from the kick off we went about our rugby in a very practical manner going from strength to strength.

Our opposition were no mugs either, their offloading of the ball coupled with some really good straight running and short pass support play always posed a threat while they were in control of the ball.

Not many handling errors from either team, just a real display of boys and girls playing rugby for the love of it.

The tackling from both teams was exceptional, for me our side being slightly more committed to it which I believe was the difference between the two teams. Tackling for us looked far more natural today than it has done since starting contact and continued to improve as the game went on.

A comfortable lead was beginning to grow for us and plenty of changes were made giving us an opportunity to try different players in key positions and see what they could do! The final score was 6-13.

We earned our first win, and very enjoyable it was

too! The players should be proud of their first win and work harder for the second. Well done team!

Captain's comment: "Great team performance, excellent result. The stand-out players for me were Dylan Bell and Matthew Davidson who were relentless."

Try scorers: Dylan Bell (5), Will Thomas-Parker (3), Elliot Sadd (2), Matthew Davidson, Josh Bowring, Rory Lampard.

JASON PARKER  
UNDER-8S- MAESTEG WELSH 9,  
PORTHCAWL 17

After last weekend's game we quickly raised our heads and played some great rugby; what was very pleasing was that this was against an abrasive side running straight lines and in very muddy/wet conditions.

Despite the weather our ball skills were great and we started to pass ball into space rather than to the person right behind them and we looked for space with the pass and when running.

We pulled off some great switch moves and kept on hitting the spaces, very pleasing for the coaches.

We could have given out 10 awards as the whole team stepped up a level in attack and defence, this can be seen with high level of scorers today. Best effort award went to Taylor who ran hard all day, but defended strongly, picking up the 'making a difference' award. Zane, who ran great supporting lines, picked up the clubman award for meeting his personal objective.

Every one of the try scorers ran very well, and were not afraid to sidestep in very muddy conditions, but for me, while there were a number of tries of the day, two stand out, not for the length of the field runs, of which we had many, but for the awareness of the ball carrier to spot a player in space and for the supporter to be in space calling for ball.

First was Piers' try where the team had carried the ball up field with Dewi taking ball within five metres of their try line, passing the ball across the field to a calling Piers who scored in open space, a great try worthy of top try scorer contributor award.

But the award went to Ryan not for his two great tries, but for the pass he put out to Oscar who sidestepped well to cross.

Ryan was odds on to score what would have been his third try of the day but Stuart, Dylan's dad, who was the referee got in the way and splatted Ryan into the mud!

I'm sure this had nothing to do with Dylan, who also would have scored his third try in the corner but unfortunately James, Ryan's dad, had his flag was up for a foot in touch - I'm sure this had nothing to do with the earlier incident!

The attack was very good and mention must go to the other scorers, Sam, Dexter, Brody and Lex, who also scored some great tries.

We charged up and tagged Maesteg on the gain line, and again we had a number of players showing great commitment. Top tagger went to Dewi who not only scored three tries but took charge of the defensive line and stopped their abrasive runners on a number of occasions. Also worth a mention for having a great tagging performance were Lex, Brody, Oscar, Ryan and Samuel.

This week we are home to Pontyclun who are strong runners and will bring plenty of numbers to play two games.

First game, Maesteg Welsh 4, Porthcawl 11 - try scorers Dewi (2), Ryan (2), Sam (2), Zane (2), Taylor, Piers and Brody. Second game, Maesteg Welsh 6, Porthcawl 6 - try scorers Dylan (2), Dexter, Oscar, Dewi and Lex. Top taggers Dewi (11), Lex (9), Brody (6), and four each from Oscar, Ryan and Sam.

RH,

## Ping golf team come so close

SIX golfers from St Athan Golf Club were just one game away from playing in the final of the Ping competition organised by the Golf Union of Wales.

This year's team was Steph Bonnar, Steve Bacon, Carolyn McKenzie, Russ Brookes, Gaynor and Andy Williams.

The team were ecstatic to win the three matches which secured a well deserved place in the semi-final where they were drawn against a team from Cardigan Golf Club.

Unfortunately Cardigan proved to have the stronger pairings which saw them into the final against Carmarthen but the team defeated Cottrell Park in the third and fourth team play off.

Determination paid off and the players were delighted to report back to their home club that they had been successful in their last game of the competition.

CM

# Presentation night delight at St Andrews!



Dan Thomas, champion of champions.



Ladies' club captain with Deana Jukes, ladies' club champion.



Allan Cummins  
of Ty Hapus.



Award winner  
Andrew Fish.

**THROUGHOUT** the year the selected captain for the year at St Andrews Major golf club gets to pick a charity to which they donate money for the whole year.

The captain for 2014 was Jason Beddoes and he chose the local charity called Ty Hapus. Ty Hapus is a unique and specialist day time service for people with early onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, focusing on those diagnosed under 65

and their families; on the evening a cheque was presented to the founder of the charity, Alun Cummins.

The evening was a great success. It was also a time to reflect on the hard work of the committee – in particular the president Roger Parsons, captain Jason Beddoes and ladies' captain Sarah Gronow.

They have achieved a huge amount in raising money and putting on the various competitions, and having a great year. MD



Award winner  
Dan Williams.



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# SKEWEN NARROWLY PIP KENFIG HILL RFC



Action from Kenfig Hill Youth's game with Bridgend Sports.

IT was a narrow 22-19 victory for Skewen against Kenfig Hill first XV in a game that saw both sides score three tries, one of which was a penalty try for the visitors.

Kenfig Hill found it difficult to contain the Skewen pack and its driving maul, but when they did secure possession their backs looked dangerous and scored three tries through their three-quarters Tom Briggs, Nicky Giles and the young fullback Aaron Graham.

The Mules will have to re-group over the autumn international period before their next league game against Maesteg Quins on December 6. Man of the match: Tom Briggs.

## KENFIG HILL 2ND VX 32

**LLANHARAN 22**  
Kenfig Hill lined up against a Llanharan side looking to play an open game which they struggled to contain.

As the game went on, the Kenfig Hill pack took some control with the back row impressing. The darting runs and the marshalling of the forwards by Matthew Tossell led to the victory which was well deserved in a tight encounter, a credit to both sides. Man of the match: Matthew Tossell.

**Tries:** Antony Pirls, Gavin Reffell, Luke Turton, Matthew Howe. **Conversions:** Matthew Tossell (3), **penalties:** Matthew Tossell (2).

## KENFIG HILL YOUTH XV V BRIDGEND

**SPORTS YOUTH**  
Following last week's spirited defeat by Aberavon Quins, the



ABOVE: Aaron Graham and  
BELOW: Tom Briggs scores for Kenfig Hill.  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER GILLING.



coaches and spectators were looking forward to another strong team performance.

However, it soon became evident that too many players had been Hallowe'en the night before! The Bridgend Sports defence was superb early in the first half in preventing the strong Kenfig Hill pack from crossing the line until Connor Tantum, showing great awareness, sniped over for the first try. Sam Young then proceeded to score a great individual try, outpacing several Bridgend defenders; the first half ended 15-0.

Bridgend Sports started the second half

strongly with an unconverted try by their winger.

Harrison Evans then scored a penalty to make the score 15-8 from where the game could have gone either way.

After a number of close calls by either side, great teamwork by Kenfig Hill resulted in the try of the match from Lewis Nolan.

A late try from Tantum and excellent kicking from Luke Griffiths flattered the scoreline at the end. Man of the match: Lewis Nolan.

**Tries:** C Tantum (2), L Nolan, S Young. **Conversions:** L Griffiths (3), **penalties:** Griffiths (2). **DHD**



Coaches and team managers Leanne Casley, Simon Harrison, Lowri Reeves, Michele Halse, chairman Terry Rees and sponsors Peter Alan, Janice Walker and Bethan Morgan.

## Phoenix welcome new sponsor



**YOUNG** Pencoed Phoenix Thursdays, 6pm-7pm. Pictured (left) have welcomed a new kit are captain Amy Morgan and Caitlin sponsor, estate agents Peter Jones with Peter Alan's Janice Walker. Alan with Janice Walker.

All new players are welcome to join us. We train at Pencoed Comprehensive astro turf on

JH

## Special schools football Challenge Shield event



The winning team,  
Maes Gwyn School  
Aberdare, with the  
Mayor.



Coun Gary Thomas, Gillian Hale, and the Mayor's Consort Ms Kay Jenkins.

**THE** annual special schools football challenge, organised by the Rotary Club of Bridgend and Heronsbridge School, was again sponsored by past Rotarian Derek Gaynor.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, Gary Thomas, presented the winner's shield to Maes Gwyn School from Aberdare. The runners up were Ysgol Bryn Castell from Bridgend.

The most improved side was Woodlands High School, Cardiff, with the fair play award going to Penybryn School, Swansea.

The player of the tournament award went to Dan Thomas from Maes Gwyn School, Aberdare.

All 100-plus players were presented with medals by Mayor Gary Thomas and Rotarian Gillian Hale, chair of the Bridgend Youth Services Committee.

## Evening for rugby's Tom

A cordial invitation goes out to past and present players of Cowbridge RFC and friends of president Tom Mainwaring. The celebration of Tom's 90th birthday takes place on November 14, 7pm for 7.30pm at the Cowbridge RFC clubhouse – let's fill the clubhouse for a great character.



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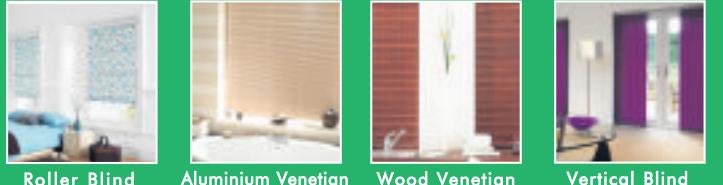
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Cadoxton Funeral Home

**Family Notices****WINDSOR****William Charles DFC**

He passed away on Sunday, 12th October in Southampton General Hospital. He was a much loved and respected father, grandfather and great grandfather. All our love, Derek, Carolyn, Shelly, Sarah, Charlotte and George. Memorial service and interment at Porthkerry Church at 12.00 noon on Friday, 7th November. Please send flowers to J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose.

**BENNET**  
**Jeanne**

Peacefully, on October 30 at Llandough Hospital, Jeanne, beloved wife of the late William, loved mother to Carolyn and son-in-law Simon, and adored grandmother of Callum, Isla and James.

*She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.*

Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Road, Penarth until the service in the funeral home chapel on Tuesday, November 11 at 12.30pm, afterwards at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

**FOLEY****Shirley Jane (née Griffin)**

Passed away peacefully on October 29 at Llandough Hospital.

Shirley, of Llantwit Major, was the most beloved wife of John, dearly loved mother of Gail, Paul, and John, and mother-in-law of Phil, Ellen, and Tina. A very special grandmother, great grandmother and friend. A Requiem Mass will be held at Our Lady and St. Illtyd Roman Catholic Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday, 12th November at 12.30pm followed by a service of cremation at Barry Crematorium.

No flowers but donations to CAFOD (the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development) gratefully received by Ms Moira Robinson, Chair, CAFOD Llantwit Major, 14 Euran Close, Llantwit Major CF61 1QY or c/o Mr J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

**Leon Ashley Payne**

Georgina, Emma, Mea and Cath would like to express their sincere gratitude to their relatives and friends who attended the funeral of their much loved Dad. Father to Mea, son to Georgina and brother to Emma.

*In loving memory.*

**CARTER**  
**Gerald**

Lost his battle with cancer, died peacefully at home with his family on November 2. Loving husband to Pauline, adored dad to Lynne, Tracey, Karen and Beverley. Loved greatly by his grandchildren, always in our thoughts. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Cochurch Crematorium on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to be made to Velindre Fundraising and forwarded to Velindre Cancer Centre, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

**MORRIS**  
**Carl Thomas**

Suddenly, at home on October 14, Carl, soul-mate of his wife Ann, who he worshipped and adored; devoted and cherished dad of Lauren.

*You were our light in the darkness, may you forever guide us, we love you and miss you. xx*

Resting at James Summers & Son, Roath Court, Newport Road, Cardiff, until the funeral service on Friday November 14, at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 3pm. No flowers. Donations may be made to Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

**MARGUS**  
**Michelle**

Suddenly on October 20th, at home, Michelle of Barry; a loving mother, grandmother and auntie.

Will be sadly missed by her sister Maria, her faithful companion Tessa (the dog) and many friends.

Funeral Monday, November 10th, service at Merthyr Dyfan Chapel, Barry at 2pm, where friends please meet, followed by interment in the cemetery.

Flowers and inquires to W.H.Preene & Son, Main Road, Cadoxton CF63 2HN.  
(Telephone 01446 420520)

**ROGERS****Marian****S.M.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. and H.V**

Peacefully at the College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on October 28. Beloved wife of the late Eric, loving sister of Gwen, Pat and John; sister-in-law of Jean and Stuart and adored aunt of nieces and nephews.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Ty Newydd Road, Barry, until her service at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry at 1pm on November 8. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to The Alzheimers' Society c/o the funeral directors.

The family wishes to thank Kath and her team at College Fields for their kindness and care of Marian.

**Articles For Sale**

**ADVERTISE HERE** £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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Happy Birthday

Sarah Smith

on 1st January

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Love from Mum, Dad & family xxx

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JSTKD's newest black belts, from left: Evan Morgan, Joe Lewis, Josh Edwards, Gary Morgan, Ellie Morgan.

STUDENTS from Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness put on an impressive display at the latest Black Belt grading examinations held

at the TAGB (Tae Kwon Do) Association of GB headquarters in Bristol.

Those undertaking the test have the added pressure of knowing that the examination is only held twice each year. The five successful students were Evan Morgan, Josh Edwards, Ellie Morgan and Gary Morgan from the Rhoose club and Joe Lewis from the Dinas Powys club.

Josh, the youngest member of the group at nine years old, began his training via the JSTKD Ninja Kids programme, as did Evan and Joe who joined when they were just four years old.

Ellie began her training as a junior with dad Gary deciding to 'stop watching and start doing' when he took up Tae Kwon Do for himself five years ago.

Everyone displayed great focus and skill throughout the three hour examination which tested not only their ability to perform the 30 intricate movements of the black belt pattern but also step sparring, free sparring, floor work and breaking techniques.

In addition, they had to undertake a theory test to demonstrate their

knowledge of the history of the pattern as well as Korean terminology.

The examination is conducted by six examiners, who are all 7th Dan or above, and who can ask students to execute patterns and demonstrate their knowledge of Tae Kwon Do theory from not only the Black Belt level but also from any of the preceding nine colour belts.

They look for students who exude a 'strong will' as well as precision and sharpness in the way their movements are performed.

For Josh, Evan, Joe, Ellie and Gary, passing this very challenging examination is the culmination of many years of training and sees them achieve their ultimate goal of becoming black belt martial artists.

Anyone who would like to start or continue their Tae Kwon Do journey should visit [www.jstkd.co.uk](http://www.jstkd.co.uk) for details of venues and classes throughout the Vale starting from three years of age up to adults; beginners are welcome and new classes are planned for the New Year.

VW

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Closing Date December 29th 2014 See website for competition terms and conditions



# Cowbridge youth stun the French champions!



Some of the team are pictured grabbing a 'selfie' with Steffon Armitage.

## Wales RL take the positives from loss

**IRELAND** won the final game of the 2014 European Championship, beating Wales 46-14 in Wrexham on Sunday, but it wasn't by the 41-point margin they needed to claim the trophy, 2016 Four Nations and 2017 World Cup qualification.

The young Wales side leave this year's European Championship tournament with no wins on the board, but a lot of positives, the primary one being that a number of Welsh-born players have stepped up to the mark where others were unavailable and have produced some good individual performances.

They'll be competing for places in Wales sides in future years alongside the Super League stars that didn't put their hands up to play on this occasion.

Ireland took the lead on four minutes. A fine run from Ben Johnston set up the try and despite a good tackle from Lewis Reece initially stopping the charge, Will Hope forced his way over from the next play. Liam Finn converted.

The visitors' second came eight minutes later when Brad Hargreaves went over in the corner after a good passing move. Finn missed the kick.

Finn put Luke Ambler through a gap to score Ireland's third on 18 minutes, then Finn duly goaled to put Ireland 16-0 up.

Another strong Irish set resulted in Hargreaves going over for their fourth try of the day on 32 minutes. Finn converted well and the Irish were 22-0 up and halfway to the points they needed to clinch the trophy, and Finn

went over for a deserved try two minutes before the break, converting himself, to put the Irish 28-0 up at the break.

Wales opened the second half well and in their first real dangerous attack of the game, Rhys Williams went over in the corner and Lewis Reece converted.

But the Irish hit back straight away as Hargreaves waltzed over for his hat-trick. Finn goaled to give them their 28-point margin back.

Matty Fozard thought he'd given Ireland more of a mountain to climb on 57 minutes as he grounded well but the pass leading to the touchdown was forward - but Wales weren't to be denied.

An excellent run from Reece created a try on the wing for Dalton Grant, much to the delight of the coachload of fans his father had brought up from south Wales. Reece missed the kick.

Ireland were certainly battling to get those points on the board. Former Scorpions favourite Haydn Peacock was next over the line with Finn converting to make it 40-10.

Poor Welsh marking gave Ireland their eighth try. It was a good length of the field move to give them the position but Casey Dunne was given far too much space to walk it in. Finn converted and Ireland were just five points away from the Four Nations.

But Wales denied Ireland right just before final hooter. Ireland were attacking well and looking for the points that they needed, but Tom Hughes picked up a stray pass on his own goal-line and ran 100 metres for a well-deserved try; Emanuelli missed the kick.

IG

## PLENTY OF COMPETITION AT LLANDOW KART CLUB

**THE penultimate round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship took place at South Wales Karting Centre with drivers in eight classes looking for a late push for silverware in a meeting that featured both longer heats and a free tyre draw.**

The Bambinos were back in action, kicking the weekend off with Nathan Browning and McKenzie Douglas both improving their lap times over the course of the day, and gaining certificates and trophies for their efforts.

The combined Cadet classes produced IAME heat victories for Max Fenlon (2) and Connor Kearney before Fenlon came out on top again in the final. Stuart Ferguson followed Fenlon's lead in Honda Cadet, winning two heats and the final, with George Alp-Williams claiming the remaining race.

Shay Keough completed the IAME podium, with Oscar Ferguson ensuring it was a family 1-2-3 in Honda by pushing Alp-Williams back into third.

In Ling's absence, Minimax honours went the way of Riley Phillips, with Jack Fordham - stepping up from the Cadet ranks - and novice Liam Griffiths filling the podium in the final.

Junior TKM provided a 100 per cent hit rate but, for once, it wasn't Ryan Edwards doing the winning. Instead, Alex Rees came through to claim all four victories, leaving Edwards to scrap it out for minor honours in an eight-strong field, eventually settling for three second places, with Tom Rawlings taking the other.

Sam Johns completed the top three in the heats, but it was Clay Pigeon's Lucas Sullivan joining Rees and Edwards on the podium in the main event as Johns posted a DNF and Rawlings failed to start.

Danny Griffiths returned to winning ways in Senior Honda, but was denied a clean sweep when Cristiano Nardone claimed the victory in heat three. Nardone remained the biggest thorn in Griffiths' side, finishing second on the road in all three remaining races.

In contrast to the majority of classes,

Senior Rotax shared the victories around, with Ashley Lewis, Zach Jones and Gareth Taylor each claiming success in the heats.

However, come the final, it was a new name at the top in every sense of the word as, having been a top three finishers early on, Morgan Rose completed his step up from the Junior Max ranks by shocking the regulars and taking top spot. Taylor and Sam Morgan completed the podium.

The random tyre draw for each class took place during the drivers' briefing and the following club members won a set of tyres supplied by Llandow Kart Shop: Stuart Ferguson (Cadet Honda), Shay Keough (Cadet IAME), Ben Cutler (Junior Honda), Tom Rawlings (Junior TKM), Ceran Soski (Junior Rotax), Jack Fordham (MiniMax), Chris Lipscomb (Senior Honda), Sam Morgan (Senior Rotax).

The 10th and final round of the 2014 Llandow club championship takes place on November 16.

### RESULTS

#### CADET HONDA - 1.

Stuart Ferguson (Project One), 2. Oscar Ferguson (Project One), 3. George Alp-Williams (Project One). CADET IAME - 1. Max Fenlon (RK/Birel), 2. Connor Kearney (Zip), 3. Shay Keough (Zip). JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Jack Bligh (7Kart). 3. Patrick Hill (Wright).

#### JUNIOR TKM - 1.

Alex Rees (Jade), 2. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart), 3. Lucas Sullivan (Tonykart).

#### JUNIOR ROTAX - 1.

Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. David Spiller (Alonso), 3. Ethan Ling (CRG).

#### MINI MAX - 1. Riley Phillips (Kosmic), 2.

Jack Fordham (Kosmic), 3. Liam Griffiths (Energy).

#### SENIOR HONDA - 1.

Danny Griffiths (MS), 2. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart), 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

#### SENIOR ROTAX - 1.

Morgan Rose, 2. Gareth Taylor (CRG), 3. Sam Morgan (CRG). Best novice: Liam Griffiths (Minimax), driver of the day: Connor Kearney (Cadet IAME).

#### CRAIG LLEWELLYN

## NETBALL SQUADS ARE ANNOUNCED

AT the Cardiff & Vale LA Netball Hub trials over 120 girls attended the under-11 trials, a further 120 at under-15 level and over 70 at under-15 - the selectors knew it was going to be a tough selection process.

The standard of play was high and amazing to see how many talented netballers are in the region, especially coming from the primary schools all over the region.

With this said the main LA Hub squads were selected and a development squad at each age group was selected underneath the main squads for further development.

The successful players to represent the Cardiff & Vale LA Hub are as follows:

Under-11 - Chloe Berrow, Aimee Seward, Holly Bennett, Mia Nunes, Hannah Davies, Abigail Morgan, Ellie Davies, Megan Hadfield, Mia Davies, Serein Bailey, Anna Griffiths, Emma Ruelle, Megan Skone, Ella Davies, Rebekah Williams, Chalice Colderley, Aimee Eason, Phoebe Mattinson, Sophie Voisey Smith, Coaches: Melanie Hellerman & Sian Seaward.

Under-13 - Ellie Williams, Beth Edwards, Jessica Gregory, Francesca Coates, Hollie Oakman, Ella Jones, Tia Roach, Helena McCormacy, Mollie Adams, Ella Forsyth, Ophelia Scott, Georgia Hellerman, Sophie Anderton, Poppy Rapley, Macy White, Alissa Colderley, Niamh

Sultana, Hannah Williams, Lauren Selman, Bethan Taylor, Olivia Tyson, Nataya Birchall. Coaches: Melanie Hellerman & Lisa Birchall.

Under-15: Caitlin Vincent, Madison Scott, Megan Pembrey, Aimee Towney, Anwen Fardy, Lowri Evans, Bethany Barrell, Muriel Cole, Emily Skinner, Emily Forrest, Caitlin Taylor, Sophie Rees, Angharad Llion, Olivia Heathfield, Annabel Emerson. Coaches: Lisa Birchall & Janet Allen.

The development squad players are as follows:

Under-11 - Leilah Mills, Laura Hawkins, Francesca Inwood, Isabelle Kane Gale, Tia Bullock, Jessica McConkey-Allen.

Under-13 - Imogen Thomas, Ffion Wontnor, Mary Isherwood, Ellie McDonald, Mariella Watt, Maisie Harrhy, Mia Sullivan.

Under-15 - Makayla Bourne, Lauren Taylor, Holly Price, Ceri Williams, Kate Pryne, Emily Roots, Imogen Dav, Sarah Jones, Molly Cameron, Chloe Holehouse, Cathrin Roots, Varnah Williams, Megan Roberts.

Congratulations to all these players. If anyone requires any information regarding netball in Cardiff & Vale, please contact Welsh Netball through Twitter - @cardiff&valendo, @welshnetball, @netballnovember.

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem\_news

CH

# LDS TAKES THE TITLE

## A Local Business Enjoying National Success

Lyndon Smith and his hard-working team at LDS Motor Factors, a local business operating from branches in Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and Rhondda, are basking in the success of being crowned the '2014 Member of the Year' by the international GROUPAUTO automotive trading group.

LDS, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary next March, supplies high quality replacement parts and consumables to more than 500 independent repair garages in the surrounding areas, a service that is vital for the reliable running of the vehicles in their local communities.

LDS has been a GROUPAUTO member for the last 10 years, which has coincided with the company's most rapid period of growth. In fact over the last ten months it has opened two of its four branches, the most recent only last month, with the acquisition of Normag Motor Factors in Swansea. "The expansion of the business over the last decade is no coincidence," says Lyndon, "as membership of a powerful trading group brings many benefits to an independent business such as ours.

"It has allowed us to benefit from shared experiences and given us access to a wealth of expertise that has helped us to provide a better service to our customers. As a result, our four branches now employ 58 people and are able to respond quickly to the needs of the businesses we supply, who in turn ensure that high quality parts are used to repair the vehicles of the motorists in their areas.

"Being recognised by the group as a whole and chosen from the more than 300 individual member businesses across the entire UK and crowned the 'Member of the Year' is a great accolade and I'm very proud of every member of staff who has contributed to the business, which has ultimately resulted in LDS receiving this award."

"As a business that operates within the community by supplying predominantly local businesses, we also like to be active in the community and so are a major sponsor of Barry Town FC and boxer, Lee Selby. This local outlook helps us to remain relevant to our area and committed to the community, so personal, friendly service is at the heart of our ethos."

For GROUPAUTO, commercial sales manager, Toby Whewell added: "LDS fully deserve the award of our 'Member of the Year' because they demonstrate all that is good in an independent business working within the structure of a wider group."

"Not only is the business well run and efficient, but Lyndon and his team are willing to get involved and put their all into the various promotions and initiatives that we design centrally to help them in their business. In turn, many of these initiatives then also need to be activated with their customers so that the local garages and ultimately, the motorists that visit them, get to share in the benefits too."

"The fact that LDS embraces all of these elements within the business, which then contributes to making a real difference to the paying public, means they are deserving winners of the '2014 Member of the Year' award."



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**Barry Branch**  
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**Phone:** 01446 736010



# Vale trainers Tim and Evan are in form

TIM Vaughan's Kalimantan was made an even money favourite for the handicap hurdle at Taunton last Wednesday and, confidently ridden by Michael Byrne, romped home a 15 lengths winner from the

second favourite Positive Vibes. Twenty four hours later at far flung Sedgefield, Tim's Rev It Up, partnered by Alan Johns, landed the long distance handicap hurdle by one and a quarter lengths from Grape Tree Flame, trained by Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen.

**EVAN'S AYR WINNER**  
Llancarfan's Evan Williams sent two horses - Sublime Talent and Definite Dream - on a 427 mile

trip to Ayr last weekend and won with one of them.

The former, who carried top weight of 11st 12lbs, could only finish fourth behind the bottom weighted Redpender in a field of six runners but the latter, seven-year-old Definite Dream, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the principal race of the day the £7,798 John Smith's No Nonsense Handicap Chase by one and a quarter lengths from Too Cool To Fool. Definite Dream was well fancied and was returned the 7-4 favourite.

Sean Bowen (17), son of Pembrokeshire trainer Peter Bowen, came in for plenty of praise after winning the Byrn Group Handicap Chase at Ascot last Saturday on the Paul Nicholls trained Ulck Du Lin.

BRIAN LEE

## Inter are defeated

**BARRY** Inter took on Rhiwbina and were on the wrong end of a 4-2 scoreline.

The first half was pulsating and we were at them constantly, being rewarded from a corner that fell to Lloyd who dispatched the ball well. Jacob supplied a good cross that lead to a lovely finish.

We found that this was a hard side to break down, and Rhiwbina soon equalised. We tried to do the right things, playing out from Connor to Aron and then on to Mason or James who would distribute to Eski. Josh and Charlie defended well and Sion put a

full shift in. Iestyn made sure the hard work was done and helped the game flow. Jack was assured on the ball and is growing in confidence every game.

The second half saw Rhiwbina go 3-1 up. We then came back at them through a wide inswinging pass which James got on the end of. A grand finale was on, but with five minutes to go, and with Inter pushing for the equaliser, they rifled in to effectively finish the game off.

*Team: Connor, Sion, Aron, Josh, Charlie, Eski, Iestyn, Lloyd, Mason, Jack, James, Jacob.*

DD

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# Student's grading success!



## CHESS PLAYERS VIE FOR TROPHY!

**THE Alec Wood Trophy is awarded annually to the player whose rating has improved the most between July 1 and May 31.**

At this early stage of the season Barry currently have three players in the top 40. The award normally goes to a junior player because their ratings increase rapidly from a low starting point with individual coaching and also from the number of rated games they play.

It is particularly pleasing that at the moment Matthew Parry is in third place, being the highest placed adult with an increase in his rating of 126 points.

This week also saw wins for three of our teams - the Camelots and the Gambits both bounces back to the top of their respective divisions.

The Camelots in division 1 defeated the Aberdare Wasps by the maximum 5-0. This returned them to the summit of the division and gives them a lead of 4.5 points over the Cardiff Castles.

So far the Camelots have won five of their six games only losing to our how far down the

own Bosons side. Their fixture against the Castles in December is looking immense.

In the 3rd division the Quarks defeated the Cardiff Crowns 3-2. The Quarks have won four of their five games to date by the narrow margin of 3-2.

They remain in seventh position, 2.5 points above Pentrech who are in the relegation zone. They are also only 3.5 points below the Caerphilly Knights who are in the last promotion spot, but the Quarks have a game in hand.

The star performer so far for the Quarks is Chris Green - he has only been available for three matches but has won them all.

In division 4 the Gambits earned their third victory of the season at St John's College against the Leptons. This division is somewhat disjointed due to the late entry of the Leptons and the North Cardiff Titans.

The Quarks lead the table by 1.5 points after having played six matches but there remain some teams who have so far played only three matches so until they all catch up we do not know how far down the

**RECENTLY the Cadoxton and West End Schools of Tae Kwon Do held their third colour belt grading of the year.**

The grading took place at the Victoria Park Community Centre, where 20 students from both clubs were put through their paces by Master Ron Thomas 8th Dan.

The exam consisted of all aspects of this Korean Martial art, patterns, set sparring, floor work, Focus and power, finishing with theory test.

The grading was a success with all 20 students passing their grading 4 of which achieved top grade "A"

passes - they were Lucia Cunningham, Charlie Rogers, with Cameron Evans and Rhys Perrett.

Pictured above, with their instructors and grading examiners, are the successful candidates.

For further information phone

(01446) 406372 or see

www.cadoxontae.kwondo.weebly.com.

kup Orange belt: Deagan Stockford, Ella Bedford, Maci Connell, Riley Rees, Bailey Rees, Danielle Perrett, John Campbell, Tristan Smith.

Promoted to 8th Kup Yellow belt: Charlie-Jade Rogers, Emily Miles, Kiera Watson-Wood.

Promoted to 6th Kup Green belt: Courtney James, Leo Cummins (S.Smith 23) 244; Blue

Stripe: Ethan Andrus, Cameron Evans.

Promoted to 4th Kup Blue belt: Lucia Cunningham. Promoted to 3rd Kup Red stripe:

Martin James, Jessica Blackley. Promoted to 1st Kup: Joel Wells.

Pictured above, with their instructors and grading examiners, are the successful candidates.

For further information phone

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Successful candidates were: Promoted to 9th

RT

## Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

Here are the results for week commencing October 13:

First Division: Allsorts (A Dawes 32) 295, Family Affair ( Davies 31) 289; Copper (J Williams 36) 337, Pila Palas (L Williams 32) 318; SV Gals (J Richards 27) 256, Castaways (M Winder 36) 267; Special Angels (T Scully 26) 261, Barry Stars (W Phillips 32) 249; Colcot LDS (S Howcroft 27) 248, Family & Friends (R White, G Brown 28) 275; Red Admiral (S Hayes 27) 225, Bakers Dozen (Anna Haines 28) 249; Space Finders (A Norman 34) 329, Cigar LDS (N Lawrence 35) 351.

Second Division: Strikers (G Giles 22) 211, Witchill Weebies (S Edwards, S Robinson 22) 200; Roller Coasters (N Burgess 25) 202, SV Lights (C Ames 25) 219; Witchill Widows (A Doel Davies, L Young, M McKinney, M Curry 30) 323, After Eights (P Bryant 33) 316; Clickies (K Mergas, M Williams 28) 296, Divas (C Jenkins 28) 272; Vixens (C Wilson, L Gray 27) 269, Rhoose Starlights (J Ocknell 29) 277; Bobby's Girls (P Soloman 29) 271, Breakaways (C Parfitt 31) 287; Castle Bandits (D Collard 29) 267, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements, S Chilcott 25) 241.

Third Division: Rhoose Ravers (J Arnott 30) 235, Persuaders (S Dixon 29) 271; Jolly Dollies (K Partridge 22) 206, Dolly Mixtures (T Rowsell 28) 170; Airways Angels (L Thomas 27) 231, Hill Billies (G Moorcroft, S Aspinall 26) 209, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 310) 259, Westenders (B Goddard 33) 325; Rugby Triers (M Wilson 28) 254, Friends & Neighbours (E Western 25) 218; S V LDS (S Barry 29) 303, Merry Makers (M Payne 29) 290; Lil's Devils (L Bowsher 26) 240, Etcereta (C Mackintosh 26) 219.

Fourth Division: Odd Bodds (V Avient 24) 192, Fallen Angels (T Lawrence 27) 243; Twilights (S Ellis 24) 195, BFFs (M Pring 27) 210; Rebels (S Williams 24) 211, Off The Rails (J Tutsel, T Sims, L McCormack 22) 220; Challengers (L Morgan 26) 256, Boozy Birds (S Rudeforth 28) 232; Wyndham Witches (V Walters 29) 251, Labelles (C Knight, R Clegg, E Cordy, J Williams 27) 272.

Fifth Division: Barry Ravers (L Hodder 26) 171, Socialites (S Marks 25) 217; Smurfs (K Mason 27) 218, Optimist (E Playle 32) 185; Park Belles (R Ham 28) 239, Aristocats (Mave Rogers 27) 209.

## The Barry & District men's skittle league

### DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B'  
(R.Bishop,  
N.Stephenson 30) 276,  
Ex-Servicemen  
(S.Smith 23) 244; Blue Monkey (R.Fox 27)  
257, The Hairy Lemons (J.Silvey, D.Phillips 27)  
287; Geest (T.Zahra 30)  
286, Colcot Boys (B.Sullivan 28) 265;  
Mighty Dockers (P.Burroughes 26) 236,  
Ex-Servicemen (P.Stevens 26) 261;  
Park Lads (G.Jones 29)  
244, 49'ers (A.Wall,  
D.Whittaker 26) 280;  
Park Rangers (D.Sage 27) 282, Blue Monkey (R.Fox 30) 277; West End Stars (A.Baker 26)  
257, Bunker Boys (B.Hewitson 32) 289.  
Division 2: Buffs

(Eveleigh 30) 250;  
British Rail (T.Williams 27) 267, C.U.D.  
(C.Perkins,G.Sheppard 27) 254; Cannon Balls (T.O'Sullivan 30) 303,  
The Alternatives (D.Brdrick 37) 299;  
'H'Bells (K.Lewis 30)  
232, West End Fliers (R.Morgan, M.James 31) 279; The Alternatives (J.Davies, A.Harris 25) 260, British Rail (K.Brown 30) 282; The Rejects (P.Edgar 36) 299,  
Commachies'2' (C.Reed 29) 254; West End Fliers (M.Nway 27) 225, Cannon Balls (T.Sparks 25) 253.

LR



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## Holly's Celtic Manor triumph



Holly with  
coach John  
Hastings

For 17-year-old Cowbridge student Holly Pitcock, October 2014 will be a month she will never forget.

Firstly she was elected junior captain at her club, St Andrew's Major, and then finished runner-up at the club's recent awards evening for the most improved junior golfer of 2014.

To round off her eventful month, Holly captured the Shelter Cymru Mini-Masters Open at the Celtic Manor Resort, winning by a margin of nine shots.

To reach the final she had to come through two qualifying rounds which

JH

were held at Caerphilly and Builth Wells.

She has attributed her success to the excellent junior coaching programme at her home club and the help she's had from her coach, John Hastings: "Without John's help I'm sure I wouldn't have won this final," she commented.

Holly would like to thank Shelter Cymru for giving her the chance to play at different venues, with the highlight being the grand final held at the Ryder Cup venue; everyone who took part in the Mini-Masters collectively raised £7,000 for Shelter Cymru.

JH

The tournament saw pupils from across the Vale attend, including students from Stanwell, Cowbridge and St Cyres schools.

There were 16 teams taking part split into

three groups, a boys' year 7 and 8 competition, won by Stanwell, a girls' year 7 and 8 competition, won by Cowbridge, and a boys' year 9 and 10 competition, won by Barry Comprehensive. The winning teams will now advance to the regional competition held by Sport Wales.

5x60 officer, Chris Ferrier, said: "It was a fantastic event, which was well attended and is an excellent way to build

within the Vale." 5x60 aims to get secondary school pupils more active more often by encouraging them to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week. The Welsh Government funded initiative is run by Sport Wales and is supported locally by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

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205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	<b>£59.95</b>

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## The Barry Leisure Centre hosts sports sessions for disabled

THIS half term, disabled children from the Vale took part in sporting activities at Barry Leisure Centre which included water polo, dodgeball and light aerobics.

The morning started off in the pool with lots of fun water-based activities. Barry Leisure Centre provided a swimming instructor who helped the group improve their swimming strokes before they transferred these skills into a competitive game of water polo.

The sessions could also help the staff at Barry Leisure Centre spot any potential swimmers who could join their Disability Swimming Academy which is run in partnership with Swim Wales.

The activities provided suited many of the participants who ranged from the age of three upwards. They were

accompanied in the pool and sports hall by the Vale Council Play Workers, as well as disability sport volunteers.

After the swimming activities had finished, the group moved on to the main hall at Barry Leisure Centre where they took part in a very competitive game of dodgeball, followed by light child friendly aerobics which again were organised by the staff from Barry Leisure Centre.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales development officer for the Vale, commented: "It's brilliant to see people using their local facilities which can provide suitable and enjoyable activities for all."

"The centres have a wide variety of facilities that the public can use and hopefully these half term activities will lead to more groups using the leisure centres throughout the year."

## FAMOUS RIDERS FROM THE VALE John Llewellyn

COWBRIDGE farmer John Llewellyn is a legend in point-to-point circles.

He rode 270 winners between the flags, the first of them on Highland Myth at the Pentrych Hunt Steeplechases at Penllyn back in 1967.

The farmhouse where he was born was on the site of the old Cowbridge Steeplechase course, which had seen the likes of the famous Anthony and Rees brothers. Some of John's early successes were gained at the same venue when the Glamorgan, Llangeinor and Pentrych hunts all held their point-to-points in the 1950s and 1960s before moving to St Hilary.

Although he started race riding at 16, he amazingly didn't ride his first winner until he was 20, which surely tells us something about his determination to succeed. John had a habit of making point-to-pointing history.

In 1982 he became the first Welshman to win the national riders' championship outright, with a then Welsh seasonal record of 19 winners. He won the Welsh riders' championship on a number of occasions.

and also enjoyed success when riding winners under rules at racecourses such as Cheltenham, Hereford, Sandown Park and Chepstow.

It was on the last named racecourse in front of a big Welsh crowd that he had a memorable win on the late Grenville Richards' Fixed Price in the 1986 Land Rover Gentlemen's Championship Hunter Chase, to become the first Welshman to win the race.

John, who farms at Newlands Farm, St Mary Church, Cowbridge, certainly had his share of falls. Four broken collar bones, a broken shoulder blade, hip and leg injuries and not to mention wrist and other 'minor injuries'.

Of the changes in the sport he says: "The standard of riding has improved since my days

and most racecourses are better laid out and there is more emphasis put on safety of riders and horses."

During his long and esteemed racing career, he rode some of the best horses in Wales and these included Mandryka, Gemmerley Jane, Fitz, Cloud Castle, Proud Prince, Timber Tool, Beau Hawke, Radio Cue and Parkhbride, names that will be music to the ears of most point-to-point enthusiasts.

A credit to the sport in Wales, he was the recipient of a special award for his services to hunt racing in the 1990s.

However, in his native Wales, he has yet to be recognised by the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame; these days he is in demand as a steward at a number of meetings throughout the season.

**BRIAN LEE**

## Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for October 28: First, Mick Green and Tim Barsby 61.11 per cent; second, Ann and Sean Macdougall 53.47 per cent; third, Helen Jordan and Judith Owen 52.78 per cent.

Helen Jordan and Judith Owen won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR



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# Bridgend Athletic push Pontypool all the way



**ABOVE LEFT:** Tom Penry-Ellis and Iestyn Merriman face up to the Pontypool outside-half, while **RIGHT:** Jake Williams and Ben Howe use numerical advantage against a Pontypool tackler. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS



**TWO tries, in quick succession, scored by visitors Pontypool in the middle of the first half ultimately cost Bridgend Athletic a vital victory in this encounter, played out in combative and entertaining fashion by both sides.**

Pontypool lie near the top of the table while the Athletic are battling it out near the bottom but there was

little to choose between the teams and if anything the home team probably just deserved to take the win on the overall run of play.

Bridgend Athletic started the game strongly and surged forward at the visitors' line but the Pontypool defence was well organised and held strong. Captain Sean Williams led his team by example as always and predatory flanker Ben Howe was notable for some excellent turnovers at the breakdown.

It wasn't long before the Athletic were back on terms as Pontypool were guilty of killing

the ball when centre Mike Hathaway made a half-break and young White put over the penalty goal.

Then came a scoring bonanza for Pontypool. A strong run to break the defence by the visiting centre was stopped short but great support allowed fellow centre Dan Hail to pick up the loose ball and carry two defenders over for a try that Hancock failed to convert.

Then, before the dust could settle on that score, Pontypool scored a second try. A planned move from a scrum saw Hail burst through and neatly offload to supporting, speedy wing Nathan Brooks to dash over from close range. This time Hancock slotted over the conversion to give his team a 10-point lead.

The home team were not to be overawed though and Tom Penry-Ellis, Griff Davies and Jon Stoker battled in the thick of every skirmish, while young hooker Iestyn Merriman was vigorous and dynamic in the loose play throughout, as well as making some bone crunching tackles.

In the scrums he was well supported by the developing Matt Muir and Matt Norman, returning to some of his best form. The pack got on top and in a series of drives and mauls forced their way over for Ben Howe to get the touch down and Josh White the conversion.

Nevertheless, right at the end of the half, Pontypool came storming back and Hail drove over the line but a despairing tackler rolled him onto his back and some excellent work by Scott Govan stripped the ball free to deny the score.

Byrnecethin tried to respond again, but were met with some solid tackling from Tom Chick, Dewi Worral, Iestyn John and Callum Lewis.

Sports secured possession from another scrum and Mackenzie Dent scored his second try of the game after another sustained attack with good handling from all supporting players.

Seven minutes into the half, and now 4-6 up, the Sports ran at every opportunity with Joel Rogers prominent in attack, and he claimed his well-deserved hat-trick to take the score to 4-7.

The final score of the game saw Mason Balmer take play up through the middle of the field; he fed Tyron Davies who passed to Tom Chick for him to claim the try and secure the Sports a 4-8 victory against a very spirited Byrnecethin team.

This week Bridgend Sports under-9s are scheduled to play Caerleon at home at Newbridge Fields. From the restart Byrnecethin worked the ball wide immediately to Sam Lockyer for him to sprint in from the half way line to score. The Sports hit back again from the restart as Ben King set off on a charge; he appeared to be held up eight metres out but broke two tackles for the Sports to lead 3-2. A spirited Byrnecethin side were not to be outdone however and



**ABOVE:** Darren Oram crosses for Heol Y Cyw

## Ystrad too strong for Heol Y Cyw

**Y STRAD RHONDDA** rolled into town determined to strengthen their position towards the top of Division One East Central but met a Heol Y Cyw side trying to turn their season around.

Previous encounters had all proved close affairs. From the kick off Ystrad showed their intention to attack and within three minutes worked the ball through the backline for winger G Davies to cross for a well-worked try wide out. The conversion attempt by outside half Truelove sailed wide.

Cyw settled down and put in some ferocious tackles on their opponents with the front row trio of Darren Oram, Luke O'Driscoll and Andrew Cooper standing out. Cyw could not seem to mount many attacking moves with the sparse possession they had and mistakes often thwarted good intentions.

Ystrad increased their lead midway through the first half when once again their back line attacked from deep and fed the ball through numerous pairs of hands at speed. Cyw missed a tackle and full back D Gratton crossed the line close to the posts. Truelove converted to take the score to 0-12.

Cyw tried to compose themselves and clawed three points back from a superb long range penalty from Rhys Thomas after an Ystrad infringement on halfway. Toward the end of the half Cyw broke away through centre Chris Howe and full back Scott Hancock but were stopped short of the line.

Ystrad infringed and gave away a penalty which outside half Mike Huckridge slotted over on the halftime whistle for 6-12.

Cyw started the second half more determined and attacked Ystrad from the off. Cyw's back row trio of Kyle Lowry, Craig Beasant and Josh O'Driscoll running at



**Scrum half Rhys Owen passes the ball.**

Ystrad's defensive line and tackling hard.

The second row pairing of Chris John and Jordan Hawkins also stood out. Cyw were awarded a penalty and decided to kick for the corner. Cyw ground their way to the line and drove over; when it seemed that only Ystrad forwards were behind the try line up popped Darren Oram with the ball to claim the try. Mike Huckridge calmly converted to put Cyw in front for the first time in the game at 13-12.

This lead was shortlived as a Cyw fumble in midfield saw Ystrad's ruthless attacking backline cut loose for centre Ryan Howells to claim the try. Truelove claimed the conversion and took the score to 13-19.

Rhys Thomas narrowly failed with another penalty for Cyw towards the end of the game before Truelove added another penalty to claim the win for Ystrad, 13-22.

The man of the match award for Cyw was shared between the back row trio of Josh O'Driscoll, Kyle Lowry and Craig Beasant. DK

## Bridge results

**IT was a great week at Bridgend Bridge Club for Marjorie Morris, as she won on Wednesday playing with Bill Turner, and on Friday in tandem with Linda Pinnock, winning convincingly on both occasions with excellent scores in excess of 65 per cent.**

Full results for the week are as follows: Wednesday, October 29: 1st Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner, 2nd Liam Sheridan and John Beard, 3rd David Bowen and David Crompton. Thursday, October 30, in the gentle duplicate for improving players, leading scorers were North/South: Arthur Harvey, closely followed by Susan Hunt and Leila

O'Hagan, and East/West: Frances Robertson, with Stuart Davies and Colin Lewis runners-up.

Friday, October 31: 1st Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, 2nd Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan, 3rd Steve Burgoine and Bill Turner.

If you are returning to bridge or wish to develop your game in a relaxed atmosphere where help is available, then you are most welcome to join these sessions.

There are lessons on Thursdays at 11am, also at Nolton Church Hall, primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play. It is still possible to book a place on the course, and for further information contact John Evans on 01656 880372. SB



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As Wales launch their latest challenge to the southern hemisphere against Australia, in the first of four autumn clashes, coach is right to warn that a 'big three' scalp now is not the be all and end all



## *The autumn matches are important but...* **'WE MUST NOT TAKE OUR EYE OFF RUGBY WORLD CUP BALL!'**

'Tis a lesson you should heed  
Try, try, try again  
If at first you don't succeed  
Try, try, try again

THE familiar 19th century school proverb attributed to one Thomas H Palmer has a particular resonance when it comes to Welsh rugby's repeated, and largely unavailing, attempts to finally reverse southern hemisphere dominance.

While this certainly remains true in the case of Kiwis and Springboks, there is yet a nagging belief that Wallabies remain the Wales team's best chance of breaking the big three's bulldog grip, notwithstanding that Australia have won no fewer than 26 of the 37 meetings (with one match drawn) since 1908, and have rattled up 864 points, compared to the Welsh total of 562.

Despite the bleak-seeming statistics, honours were fairly even until the 1987 Rugby World Cup, where Wales edged out the shell-shocked men from Oz (22-21) in the third place play-off at Rotorua; though of the 22 matches played since then, Australia have won 20, with Wales triumphant on two home occasions – Grand Slam years 2005 (24-22) and 2008 (21-18).

In fact, more recently narrow margins have become the norm – a bare handful of points again separating them in the last seven close-fought encounters – with Wales often in command, but agonisingly unable to clinch victory right at the death.

In the 2011 Rugby World Cup, Australia avenged the 1987 defeat with a 21-18 win in the third place play-off at Eden Park, New Zealand; followed by a 24-18 autumn victory in Cardiff. Then came their nail-biting three-Test summer triumphs Down Under (27-19; 25-23; 20-19), before again squeaking home (14-12) at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium that autumn.

Finally, they added to mounting Welsh frustration in last year's autumn international at the Millennium Stadium by ruthlessly snatching a 30-26 victory from the home team's grasp, literally in the dying seconds of a match that, in truth, Australia had never looked like winning.

Little wonder then that as the Australians descend on the Welsh capital city for this Saturday's last encounter before the teams meet again in Pool A at next year's Rugby World Cup in Twickenham, Wales head coach Warren Gatland has clearly primed his troops for a sustained effort to overcome what has been a persistent failing, with the RWC tournament firmly in mind.

"We are definitely good enough to beat Australia," he insists. "It's just having the experience and nous to close those games out, especially when we are in the lead. What we are doing (in the four autumn internationals) is running through a lot of those scenarios to make sure we are fully

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John



Welsh players are pictured training this week on the new £3.1million pitch at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, which has replaced the notoriously unstable former surface.

prepared..."

Nevertheless, the candid Kiwi has also been at pains to stress that while the upcoming autumn games against Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Fiji (another Pool A opponent) are, of course, very important – as is the Six Nations in the new year – "I don't see any point in winning every game and not qualifying from our RWC group. For us that is paramount..."

"The players have been told to treat the World Cup like the Olympics... Our whole focus is on making sure that we qualify and get out of our pool," he avers.

This, of course, is unarguable and one can understand it is a difficult balancing act, but there is still almost a year to go to the tournament – and as England (who are also in Pool A) proved in RWC 2003 – a successful pre-Cup run against major rivals gives the squad a priceless psychological lift, as well as nurturing a vital winning mindset for the testing, and infinitely more important, campaign that lies ahead.

By the same token, a string of dismal, pre-tournament setbacks would hardly be conducive to raising the team's (and also the fans') morale – in the run-in to RWC 2015.

Thus, despite Gatland's cautionary words, there can be no doubting the Welsh camp's serious intent, not just regarding the four autumn tests – "we want to win every one" – but also the subsequent Six Nations.

After near civil war that almost split Welsh rugby asunder finally settled into an uneasy truce (much ultimately depends on how well erstwhile adversaries – newly-elected WRU board chairman Gareth



No more excuses...Gatland and his fellow coaches check out the new hybrid surface. Pictures on this page by Huw Evans Agency.

on... "being totally clinical and composed when it matters most, particularly in the final moments of a game – the key ingredients for us over the next four weeks."

"That's the biggest area we need to improve on, especially against southern hemisphere sides," Howley affirms.

The giant strides made since Gatland took over the helm in 2008 have turned Wales into a genuinely competitive force to be reckoned with on the world scene, but closing out tight games has all too often proved beyond a still young squad that has yet to acquire the ruthless self-confidence that marks out the southern hemisphere giants from the rest.

This weekend, the Welsh camp will hope that the team announced on Tuesday will start to prove that this vital piece of the jigsaw is at last in place.

One thing we can be quite sure of, they will not be heeding the inimitable WC Fields' own take on that familiar proverb quoted earlier... "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again – then give up..."

WALES team v Australia  
Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon), Alex Cuthbert (Cardiff Blues), George North (Northampton Saints), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Paul James (Bath), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (unattached), Sam Warburton (c), Taulupe Faletau (Newport Gwent Dragons).

Replacements: Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Cardiff Blues), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Bradley Davies (London Wasps), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Cory Allen (Cardiff Blues).